Kevin Roberts

Please STOP the Department of Ecology from taking away incentives for farmers to continue investing in environmental improvements!

Ecology's proposed rules discourage greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and renewable energy projects on dairies—precisely the kinds of projects Washington should be supporting.

In California, just over 2% of carbon reduction funding produced more than 29% of the state's total carbon reductions—because it was invested in agricultural methane reduction projects. Inspired by these results, our Legislature took action, allocating funds to replicate this success in Washington. Now, Ecology's proposed rules threaten to undermine that legislative intent and stall meaningful progress.

Dairies offer one of the greatest opportunities to meet our state's goals for GHG reduction and renewable energy. These projects also deliver co-benefits, including:

Recycling food waste,
Improving air and water quality,
Enhancing soil health on dairy and neighboring farms.

To realize these benefits, Ecology must ensure longer crediting periods for all on-farm environmental projects. This enables farmers to partner with the state on shared environmental goals—GHG reductions, renewable energy generation, and food waste recycling among them.

Specifically, we urge:

At least two 10-year renewable crediting periods for dairy methane reduction projects—not the currently proposed two 7.5-year periods.
Parity with California's incentives—or better. Washington should not offer fewer economic incentives for climate-beneficial projects.
Equal treatment for dairy-derived renewable power—no discrimination against these clean energy solutions.
Extension of power generation efficiency incentives to include linear generators, alongside fuel cells. Both technologies are super-clean, efficient, and non-combustion-based, and should be equally supported.

Washington has an opportunity to lead in agricultural climate solutions.

Don't discriminate against dairy-derived renewable power!