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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 2, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Administrator Zeldin:

I am writing today to request you immediately investigate coordination between career staff in the EPA Region 10 office in Seattle, Washington, and extreme environmental activist groups that resulted in the closure of the Cow Palace dairy Yakima County, Washington. Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

As you know, the EPA Region 10 office serves Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and over 270 tribal organizations. For the last fifteen years, and perhaps longer, career staff in several divisions—including the Air and Radiation Division, and Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division—had free rein to pursue their own activist agenda.

The result of the coordination was the closure of the Cow Palace dairy which had been in operation since 1972. More than 120 employees lost their jobs, and Cow Palace was forced to liquidate their herd of 7,500 dairy cows.

Farmers, ranchers, and landowners across the country are the original stewards of our environment; they recognize the importance of clean air, land, and water to produce the food and fiber our country needs. In my district, these men and women are among the most hardworking, resource-conscious Americans that I know, yet it is clear that the career staff at EPA incorrectly see them as a threat to the environment.

Included in this correspondence is documentation provided under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) which demonstrates clear coordination between EPA career staff and the anti-animal agriculture environmental activists.

TRI-CITIES OFFICE
3100 GEORGE WASHINGTON WAY, SUITE 130
RICHLAND, WA 99354
PHONE (509) 713-7374

YAKIMA OFFICE
402 EAST YAKIMA AVENUE, SUITE 1000
YAKIMA, WA 98901
PHONE (509) 452-3243

NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE
PO BOX 135
GRAND COULEE, WA 99133
PHONE (509) 433-7760



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

The purpose of the federal government is to provide Americans with essential services, including navigating the complex regulatory burden placed on farmers. This coordination is appalling and should be investigated; if career staff did in fact coordinate with activists to target farmers, then those staff are not worthy of a taxpayer-funded salary.

Sincerely,

Congressman Dan Newhouse
Representative, Washington's Fourth Congressional District.

Attached:

1. September 3, 2023, (Page 3) Charlie Tebbutt writing to John Moore, Danielle Granatt, and Eric Winiecki of the EPA (and cc'ed several of the activists such as Helen Reddout and Amy van Saun). The letter provided attachments as well as stating "It is more than time to take action against all Large CAFOs, not only in the Lower Yakima Valley, but also across the nation."

2. April 3, 2024, (Page 4-6) Amy Van Saun of Center for Food Safety followed up with Ed Kowalski, Jeff Kenknight, and the others on the check-in team. Amy states that "While we appreciate the information sharing that we've been doing, it is essential for the communities in the LYV and the LUB to have commitments from EPA so that state efforts do not drag on...We appreciate the EPA's promise that it's not going anywhere."

3. September 12, 2024, (Page 7) DOJ sent out an invitation for a meeting to be held that same evening. The stated subject of the meeting is "U.S. v Cow Palace et al Coordination." The individuals invited were:

- Genevieve Parshalle (DOJ)
- Eric Winiecki (EPA)
- Charlie Tebbutt (Charlie Tebbutt Law)
- Andrene Dabaghi (DOJ)
- Jon Frohnmayer (Charlie Tebbutt Law)
- Danielle Granatt (EPA)
- Frederick Phillips (DOJ)
- Amy van Saun (Center for Food Safety)
- Dave Erickson (Water and Environmental Technologies)

Message

From: Charlie Tebbutt [Charlie@tebbuttlaw.com]
Sent: 9/3/2023 5:48:22 PM
To: Moore, John (Matthew) [moore.johnm@epa.gov]; Granatt, Danielle [Granatt.Danielle@epa.gov]; Winiecki, Eric [Winiecki.Eric@epa.gov]
CC: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]@icloud.com; 'Amy van Saun' [AvanSaun@CenterforFoodSafety.org]; helen reddout [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]@gmail.com; [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]@gmail.com
Subject: Fw: View Point Dairy - Transmittal of 2nd Quarter 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Report
Attachments: 2Q2023 VPD GW Data Transmittal_08282023.pdf

Dear EPA- Attached please find recent groundwater reports from View Point Dairy, located north of Sunnyside, WA. As you can see, two wells on the site exceed the Safe Drinking Water Act standard of 10 ppm nitrate. Thus, this CAFO, as with every other CAFO that CARE, FOTC, and CFS have sued or settled with in Washington, also presents an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health and the environment. Residences downgradient of View Point Dairy, along with results from the GWMA testing, have also shown wells in excess of 10 ppm. It is more than time to take action against all Large CAFOs, not only in the Lower Yakima Valley, but also across the nation, to stop this rampant and ongoing contamination of communities. We hope you will do so- the evidence is incontrovertible. Thank you

Charlie Tebbutt
Law Offices of Charles M. Tebbutt, P.C
3026 NW Esplanade
Seattle, WA 98117
Ph: 541-285-3717
Website: <http://charlietebbutt.com>

From: Mark Larsen <mlarsen@anchorqea.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 3:41 PM
To: Charlie Tebbutt <Charlie@tebbuttlaw.com>; Jon Frohnmayer <jon@tebbuttlaw.com>; Erickson Erickson <derickson@waterenvtech.com>
Cc: Bill & Lisa DeRuyter [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]@gmail.com>; Kent Krabill <kkrabill@lynnllp.com>; Joshua Lang <jlang@lynnllp.com>; Kristi Geris <kgeris@anchorqea.com>; Halah Voges <hvoges@anchorqea.com>
Subject: View Point Dairy - Transmittal of 2nd Quarter 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Report

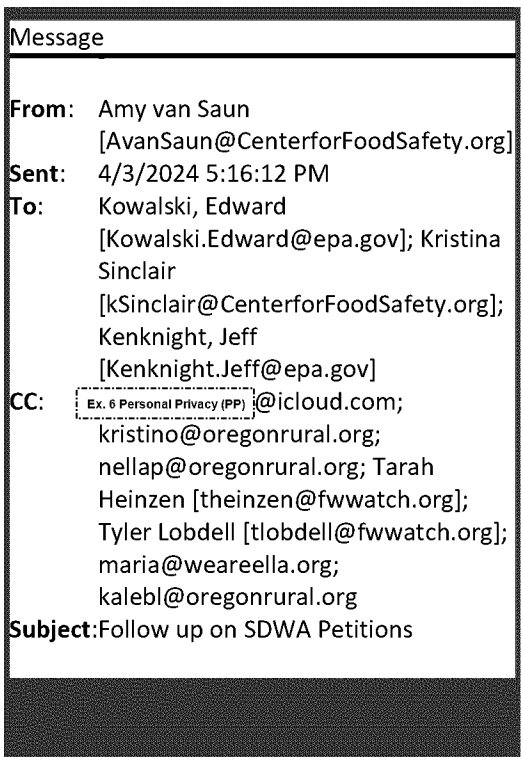
Charlie, Jon and Dave:

On behalf of View Point Dairy, I am attaching a copy of the 2nd Quarter 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Report. This deliverable is submitted in accordance with paragraph 16 of the Consent Decree.

Thank you and have a nice weekend,

Mark Larsen
Principal Scientist
mlarsen@anchorqea.com

Anchor QEA
949 Market Street, Suite 700



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Ed and Jeff,

Thank you again for meeting with us to discuss the situation in the LYV and LUB. As you've seen, FOTC and ORA have followed up with specific details and needs for their respective areas by email. We also wanted to follow up as a group with a couple next steps:

1. We request a follow up call in April to specifically discuss the pending SDWA petitions and EPA's thinking moving forward. We suggest a 2-hour hold to make sure we have enough time. While we appreciate the information sharing that we've been doing, it is essential for the communities in the LYV and the LUB to have commitments from EPA so that state efforts do not drag on forever without the needed progress. The recently filed class action suit in the LUB indicates the seriousness of the region's issues and inadequacy of the state's response. We appreciate the EPA's promise that it's not going anywhere, and that promise needs to be paired with actionable timelines and expectations.
2. Our call last week made clear that 1 hour is insufficient to address the details of both WA and OR every few months. With that understanding, we'd like to separate our quarterly check in calls so that EPA meets with the WA petitioners separately from the OR petitioners and ORA. We believe that will provide a more productive space for dialogue and working together. If EPA is amenable to this, we will follow up separately.

Please let us know your team's availability for a call here in April and we'll get that on calendars.

Amy van Saun
Senior Attorney
Center for Food Safety

Cell: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]

Pronouns: they/them

<https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/pnw>

From: Kowalski, Edward <Kowalski.Edward@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 3:18 PM

To: Kristina Sinclair <kSinclair@CenterforFoodSafety.org>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>

Cc: Jean Mendoza <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>; Amy van Saun <AvanSaun@CenterforFoodSafety.org>; kristino@oregonrural.org; nellap@oregonrural.org; Tarah Heinzen <theinzen@fwwatch.org>; Tyler Lobdell <tlobdell@fwwatch.org>; maria@weareella.org; kalebl@oregonrural.org
Subject: RE: Proposed Agenda for Quarterly Meeting re SDWA Petitions

The agenda looks fine, Kristina. We look forward to the conversation.

Edward J. Kowalski
Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA Region 10
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) [REDACTED]

From: Kristina Sinclair <kSinclair@CenterforFoodSafety.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 1:46 PM
To: Kowalski, Edward <Kowalski.Edward@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>; Amy van Saun <AvanSaun@CenterforFoodSafety.org>; kristino@oregonrural.org; nellap@oregonrural.org; Tarah Heinzen <theinzen@fwwatch.org>; Tyler Lobdell <tlobdell@fwwatch.org>; maria@weareella.org; kalebl@oregonrural.org
Subject: Proposed Agenda for Quarterly Meeting re SDWA Petitions

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Hi all,

We are looking forward to our upcoming meeting regarding the SDWA petitions in Oregon and Washington. To help facilitate a productive and efficient meeting, we would like to propose the following agenda:

- **Update from EPA re: Quarterly Meetings with State & County Agencies (15 minutes)**
 - Washington
 - Oregon
- **Updates from Community Groups (20 minutes)**
 - Washington [FOTC & ELLA] (10 minutes)
 - Oregon [ORA] (10 minutes)
- **Q&A // EPA Follow-up**
- **Next Steps // Discussion**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,
Kristina

Kristina M. Sinclair (she/her)
Associate Attorney

Center for Food Safety
ksinclair@centerforfoodsafety.org

CFS is transitioning to a four-day work week. Our offices are closed every Friday.

| Appointment | |
|-------------|---|
| From: | Parshalle, Genevieve (ENRD) [Genevieve.Parshalle@usdoj.gov] |
| Sent: | 9/12/2024 12:13:31 PM |
| To: | Parshalle, Genevieve (ENRD) [Genevieve.Parshalle@usdoj.gov]; Winiecki, Eric [Winiecki.Eric@epa.gov]; Charlie Tebbutt [Charlie@tebbuttlaw.com]; Dabaghi, Andrene (ENRD) [Andrene.Dabaghi@usdoj.gov]; Jon Frohnmayr [jon@tebbuttlaw.com]; Granatt, Danielle [Granatt.Danielle@epa.gov] |
| CC: | Frederick.Phillips@USDOJ.GOV; Dave Erickson [derickson@waterenvtech.com]; Amy van Saun [AvanSaun@CenterforFoodSafety.org] |
| Subject: | U.S. v. Cow Palace et al Coordination |
| Location: | Microsoft Teams Meeting |
| Start: | 9/12/2024 7:00:00 PM |
| End: | 9/12/2024 8:00:00 PM |
| Show Time | Busy |
| As: | |
| Recurrence: | (none) |

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Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

Join the meeting now

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| Meeting ID | Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) |
| Passcode: | |

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