



REGION 10 ADMINISTRATOR

SEATTLE, WA 98101

Casey Sixkiller
Director
Department of Ecology
State of Washington
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

Dave Upthegrove
Commissioner of Public Lands
Department of Natural Resources
State of Washington
MS 47001
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Director Sixkiller and Commissioner Upthegrove:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing to express grave concerns regarding recent actions the State of Washington's Department of Ecology and Department of Natural Resources have taken to target cattle farmers in the state.

We understand the State of Washington has taken aggressive enforcement action against the King family based upon their maintenance of stock watering ponds for their cattle farm. The King family, like most farmers and ranchers, maintain stock watering ponds on the land they own and lease to ensure their livestock have access to water. The EPA recognizes that stock watering ponds are important for supporting livestock operations. The State of Washington appears to be impeding cattle farmers' ability to both earn a livelihood and participate in an important economic activity critical to supplying the nation's food supply.

Where Washington is implementing programs overseen by the EPA, we expect that you will stay within the appropriate jurisdictional bounds.

Sincerely,

Emma Pokon
Regional Administrator

cc: Aubrey Bettencourt
NCRS, USDA