



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

September 12, 2022

Stand up to Factory Farms
c/o: Tyler Lobdell
Attorney
Food and Water Watch
2009 Northeast Alberta Street
Portland, Oregon 97211

Dear Mr. Lobdell:

Thank you for your letter dated July 20, 2022, about the Safe Drinking Water Act Petition for emergency action in the Lower Umatilla Basin in Oregon. Your letter requests that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency respond to the Petition and take action in response to high levels of nitrate in ground water throughout the Lower Umatilla Basin in Oregon. You also request that I meet with you and impacted community members to discuss the matter.

We recently shared with you the EPA's latest letter dated July 29, 2022, to Oregon Health Authority, Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Agriculture. The letter describes immediate actions the EPA believes are necessary to ensure community members are provided safe drinking water. The state is requesting emergency funding from the Oregon legislature this September to implement their plan for testing and provision of clean drinking water to those who need it. The EPA has asked the state to meet with and report to the EPA on a quarterly basis to discuss their progress. Regarding your request for a meeting to hear community member concerns, I have asked Edward Kowalski, Director of the EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, and his staff to work with you to schedule a time to meet with me and key staff working on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you would like additional information prior to meeting, please contact Edward Kowalski, at (206) 553-6695 or Kowalski.edward@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Casey Sixkiller
Regional Administrator