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June 11, 2019

EPA Region 10 Administrator Christopher Hladick  
Via email: [hladick.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:hladick.christopher@epa.gov)

CC: Rep. Dan Newhouse  
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Lucy Edmondson  
Larry Stap  
Jay Gordon  
Dan Wood  
Rick Naerebout  
Tami Kerr  
Associate Administrator Tate Bennett

Dear Administrator Hladick:

As we indicated in our previous communication, the disappointment of farmers in your refusal to allow for the required peer review of the Yakima Nitrate Report has led us to refer this matter to officials at EPA headquarters. This is a courtesy notice to inform you that we are conversing with Associate Administrator Tate Bennett of the Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education who also serves as agricultural liaison. We had a conference call with Associate Administrator Bennett on May 13 and have continued the conversation since then.

The current administration has made transparency a hallmark of its badly needed reform of the EPA. Farmers had every reason to believe that as Administrator, you would adhere to that policy not only as it relates to the study and peer review, but to the efforts by your staff to falsely characterize its peer review and cover up their failure to comply with EPA policy. Even under the previous administration's policies of transparency, staff failed to meet the requirements for appropriate review of a science study with such serious consequences. Now, that transparency is still being denied. You asked our representatives in the April 2 meeting what farmers would do if the peer review validated the study. The answer of farmers is: We want the truth. We simply ask why you and your staff do not want the same?

Our request to you and officials in Washington DC remains the same:

- 1) Allow this study to be subjected to a peer review by the Agricultural Research Service.
- 2) Suspend the study from further enforcement and litigation pending the completion of that review.
- 3) Provide documentation on who changed the category from “influential science information” to “other” and when that change was made.

While you may receive copies of our communication with EPA officials through agency channels, in the name of transparency, we are attaching a letter we sent to OPEEE Associate Administrator Tate Bennett following our conference call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Baron', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Gerald Baron  
Executive Director  
Save Family Farming