

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sean D. Logan, Director  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
2045 Morse Road  
Columbus, OH 43229

In re: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

Dear Director Logan:

The ODNR mission statement indicates that your department is *“To ensure a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all.”* I am a resident of Sandusky County and am contacting you today because I believe that the increasing number of CAFOs in the State of Ohio is seriously jeopardizing the natural resources of this great State, including polluting the Great Lakes, putting our largest supply of fresh water at risk.

CAFOs, under the auspice of agriculture, are being issued permits which result in large concentrations of animals creating huge volumes of waste that contain hormones and antibiotics, which waste is held in storage pits until it is spread throughout the surrounding community. These manure storage pits often have clay liners and none are monitored for leakage.

The CAFO operators contract with local farmers who take the manure from the pits and spread it all over the surrounding land again increasing the possibility of contamination of ditches, streams, rivers and ground water. Sandusky County currently has no CAFOs, but two applications are pending with the ODA which are proposed to collectively hold 4300 cows. These 4300 cows will generate too much waste in too small an area to be handled in a manner that is respectful to the environment. The ODA claims to have strong regulations in place governing CAFOs. However, these regulations are secondary to manure management because the reality is...you cannot stop the cows from creating waste. Regardless of the severity of the regulations, when the pits are full, the manure must go somewhere, and as we have seen repeatedly in Michigan, the manure is spread regardless of the regulations and with little or no regard to the damage caused to the environment.

This is not wise use and protection of natural resources; it is destroying them right before our eyes. A moratorium should be placed on these CAFOs to allow sufficient time to monitor and analyze the operations until such times as the ODNR can provide assurance that the CAFOs will operate in a manner that preserves the environment today as well as for the future. Please take immediate steps to stop the environmental damage being caused by CAFOs.

Sincerely,

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