

Linda Leehman

From: James Maroney <maroney.james@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 16, 2021 12:43 PM
To: Linda Leehman
Cc: Jock Gill; Christopher Pearson; Christopher Bray; Carolyn Wesley; Roger Allbee; Jim McCullough; Thomas Hall
Subject: [External] Dairy Task Force report coming out Monday

Dear Task Force members:

In anticipation of your final report coming on Monday I submit these responses:

1. Any business in this country either in Vermont or elsewhere must be profitable and in the context of the GWSA minimally polluting to survive.
2. Vermont conventional dairy (VCD) is both unprofitable and systemically — not incidentally — responsible for 40% of the pollution entering Lake Champlain and 16% of GHG emissions into the atmosphere. I anticipate that your recommendations will do nothing to reduce these numbers.
3. The Global Warming Solutions Act (2020) mandates that Vermont reduce its GHG emissions 26% by 2025, 35% by 2035 and 80% by 2050. To meet these targets the GWSA requires VCD reduce its reliance upon fossil fuels by the same amounts before the same dates. I anticipate that your recommendations will not require VCD to meet these targets or even work toward them.
5. The proposals for rectifying VCD's contributions to lake and atmospheric pollution issued on December 1, 2021 by the Climate Council's subcommittee on agriculture are similarly not intended to reduce the industry's emissions but to shield VCD from the kinds of regulations that would. No one in Vermont gains by this failure of leadership; not the taxpayers, not the lake or the atmosphere and certainly not the farmers.
4. The state has asserted again and again over the past fifty years that VCD's importance to Vermont's culture and economy were grounds for denying the truth of the statements above which has led the legislature to contrive to charge the taxpayers for dozens of programs, plans and laws all intended on their faces to rectify these two problems knowing that the plans' primary purpose was in each case not to remedy them but to shield VCD from regulations that would. I anticipate that your recommendations will not change the state's agricultural policies but encourage them to continue.
6. The empirical evidence readily available to the state since at least the late 1970s clearly supports the above statement.
7. Vermont's long-standing belief that VCD "produces our food" or that its mere existence is of greater importance to its people than the attainment of our water quality standards has caused the state to fail to correctly identify the causes of the industry's relentless decay and its increasing contribution to the state's GHG emissions and caused it as a result to fail to propose any practical remedy for them.
8. In view of the indisputable fact that the federal government implicitly and explicitly supports the continuance of conventional farming without regard to it being the proximate cause of over production, low milk prices, farm attrition and lake pollution gives the writers no alternative but to recommend that the state discontinue all support for the conventional modality and to bring all available resources to bear upon an immediate conversion of the industry to organic. To put it slightly differently the writers believe there is no remedy anyone can articulate — including the

proposed Payment for Eco Services or the hedging plan the Task Force alluded to at its last meeting — that will cause VCD to become either profitable or non polluting in either the short term or the long.

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