

February 6, 2025

Re: EPA Directive on CAFO Permits

Dear Members of the Vermont Legislature,

The Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition (CVFC), which represents over 130 diversified farms, supports water quality, climate smart farming, and the economic viability of farms in the Champlain Valley.

CVFC's has enjoyed a close partnership with the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) over the years. AAFM, through its water quality program, and other programs, has been instrumental in keeping farms across Vermont profitable and resilient. We couldn't state more clearly how much we appreciate the support from AAFM in helping us fulfill our mission.

AAFM, working closely with the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), has helped farmers comply with Required Agricultural Practices (RAP's) since 2016. RAP's have played a critical role in improving water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin.

CVFC acknowledges the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) communications on CAFO permits and its directive to have all regulatory authority under ANR. We further acknowledge that the EPA has primary regulatory authority over the Clean Water Act.

While we value the protections afforded to farmers under the CAFO permitting process, we also believe further clarity is required on the EPA's directive and its impact on our members. We request that farmers be included in discussions that might help shape the regulatory framework going forward.

Thank you.

The CVFC Board