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12 August 2014

Mrs. Laura DiPietro
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620

Dear Secretary Ross, hearing officer:

After reflecting on what I heard at hearing, my comments are as follows.

- 1. The report as commissioned Lake Champlain Basin Program was specifically never intended to be a basis for regulation. It was intended to identify critical areas that needed further on the ground investigations. Furthermore, the data was several years old and doesn't account for subsequent weather events and remedial practices already taken.**
- 2. The study maps assumed no BMP's in place.**
- 3. Programs and practice are already underway to refine and remediate the challenges presented without making BMP's mandatory.**
- 4. LFO's and MFO's already have to comply with MFO's.**
- 5. Small farms appear to be those most affected if CLF is successful.**
- 6. While much has been done, more needs to be done...limitations are personnel to identify and design solutions, dollars to assist from the society that benefits and dollars available for a match those public funds.**
- 7. The idea that taxing cooperatives should provide the funds because of the farmers are challenged shows the gross lack of understanding of who owns the coops. Coops are the farmers.**
- 8. The observable changes will require lots of time and patience...years in many cases. Regulation will not change that and in fact create push back to progress currently underway.**
- 9. Water quality is everyone's responsibility and not just one segment of society.**

Based on the comments and knowledge of all the good works being done currently, I cannot support the CLF petition.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Foster, President
Robert Foster
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