

Karen Ukura

My comments are in the attached images.



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May 20, 2025 at 2:26 PM

I want to voice my concern about what is the potential approval of the Liberty Academy expansion.

If the MN PCA would take a deeper look at the bodies of water that encompass the Goggins-school Section (GSL) Region and other waters close to the Liberty site, much information can be found on how environmentally sensitive this area really is. (see attached maps).

When water levels are normal the Goggins-School Section Lakes recharge the surficial aquifer. When water table levels are high the GSL discharge from the surficial aquifer. When this balance is disrupted, as it has been in the past, houses, roads and septic systems have been flooded.

These problems were addressed for some of the areas in the late 1990s. To add Liberties impact, both from its addition to the ground water and its draining from the aquifers, could bring us right back to issues experienced during these untenable times.

Least we forget, what happens at the headwaters of Brown's Creek has implications all the way down to the St. Croix River including Brown's Creek Trout stream, a very unique natural occurrence in this State.

Is it worth bringing an urban facility into a rural area where infrastructure to accommodate it does not exist?

Again, take a look at the amount of water that exists in various forms in the Brown's Creek Watershed district and beyond.





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There are many reasons why this area should be watched closely before development pollutes this area any more than it already has. According to some studies (cite info on request) regarding the life of for-profit private schools, within ten years, about 45% have already closed. Then what? Who is responsible for what is left? We tax payers?

Finally, in my opinion, I do not trust Liberty to uphold whatever restrictions or monitoring will be required of them. They have made no attempt to keep the property they own maintained. Weeds were left to grow over four feet high last summer and still have not been maintained. Since one large well is not acceptable, they are using a lope hole to apply for multiple smaller wells from the DNR, knowing that the land lies within the five mile restrictions created in the White Bear Lake law suit settlement. This does not sound like people who care about the impacts they are making.

If this is approved, I hope there will be more than adequate monitoring from outside sources and monetary provisions made for any pollution or other environmental impacts that are made.

Finally, please study this further! Thank you.

