



April 6, 2026

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
c/o Charles Peterson
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Peterson,

I write today on behalf of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), a statewide organization representing more than 6,300 businesses and more than 500,000 employees throughout Minnesota. Thank you for completing a draft Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the proposed West River Dairy Expansion.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) conducted a robust draft EAW that details the project's potential impacts. Evaluating and permitting livestock facilities is not a novel concept for MPCA and other regulatory bodies in Minnesota. The information provided in the draft EAW adequately captures potential impacts to air, water, land, and climate, while detailing the likely required permits.

Minnesota's detailed EAW process is designed to capture all potential impacts of an action. Responsible Government Units such as the MPCA are well equipped and experienced in drafting EAWs with project proposers to ensure Minnesotans understand the project. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not necessary because the EAW provides the agency with the information it needs for this type of project, per Minn. Rule 4410.4300.

As detailed in the EAW, the proposed West River Dairy Expansion proposes several water retention measures to continue being a leader in sustainability. Building retention basins, reusing an average of 90 million gallons per year of stormwater, and other efforts will help with water use. Further, the expansion must undergo a significant regulatory process for water managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

The dairy sector is an important piece of Minnesota's diverse economy. Expanding the West River Dairy will help Minnesota continue to be a national leader in milk and cheese production and remain as a net exporter of dairy products. The Minnesota Chamber supports the expansion and the benefits it will provide and looks forward to the next step in the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. J. M.', is written below the text 'Sincerely,'.

Andrew Morley
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Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
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