

March 30, 2026

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
ATTN: Charles Peterson
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Peterson,

My name is Karie Kirschbaum. I previously served as Mayor of Gary, Minnesota, and as Chair of the Norman County Economic Development Authority. I currently serve as National Sales and Procurement Director for a grain mill based in Northwest Minnesota, working closely with agricultural operations across the region, including Riverview.

I am writing in strong support of Riverview Dairy's proposed West River Dairy expansion in Stevens County.

Riverview established its presence in Waukon Township, Norman County, in 2021. Since that time, it has proven to be a significant and positive economic force in our region. From the outset, Riverview committed to operating as a responsible and community-minded partner, and they have consistently delivered on that commitment. Their presence has contributed to local economic growth, supported housing development, strengthened school enrollment, and created opportunities for a wide range of agricultural and service-based businesses.

In my current role within the agricultural sector, I see firsthand the importance of a strong and stable livestock industry. Operations like Riverview provide dependable economic activity that supports local jobs, drives continued investment, and enables businesses like ours to grow and reinvest in rural communities.

The proposed expansion represents a meaningful opportunity for continued regional growth. It will create demand for local vendors, support both construction and long-term employment, and contribute to the overall vitality of rural Minnesota. Projects like this are critical to maintaining a competitive and sustainable agricultural economy and ensuring that communities across our state remain strong and viable.

Minnesota's environmental review process is thorough and rigorous. Based on that, I do not believe an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary for this project.

I respectfully encourage your support and approval of Riverview Dairy's expansion.

Sincerely,
Karie Kirschbaum
E: kariekirschbaum@gmail.com
P: 218-350-1673