



April 14, 2026

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Support for the Riverview West River Dairy Expansion Permit**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as a dairy farmer in Minnesota. I want to express my personal support for the expansion of Riverview's West River Dairy in Stevens County.

I have watched the dairy industry evolve dramatically over the years. The farms we operate today bear little resemblance to those of a generation ago — not just in size, but in how carefully and thoughtfully we manage land, water, and nutrients. The tools available to us now, from precision nutrient management to advanced manure handling to real-time environmental monitoring, have made it possible to grow dairy production while improving our environmental outcomes. Riverview is a leader in putting those tools to work.

I have personally visited Riverview's farms and have seen firsthand how they manage their farms with a high level of professionalism and care for their employees, their animals and the environment. They set the standard for others in how to run dairy farms with consistent, responsible and ethical standards.

Riverview also brings jobs and opportunities to their communities. They partner with neighboring farmers on manure application programs that reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers and improve soil health across thousands of acres. They support local businesses. They show up.

Riverview has also earned its reputation for environmental stewardship. Their investments in water conservation — including water-recapture basins that reduce dependence on a single water source — and their proactive approach to manure management are evidence of a company that takes its responsibilities seriously. This is not compliance for its own sake; it reflects genuine values.

As an Edge board member, I want to be clear that Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative has full confidence in Minnesota's existing environmental review process. The MPCA is experienced and well-equipped to evaluate this expansion and to use the tools at its disposal — including individual permit conditions where warranted — to protect our state's waters. We do not believe an Environmental Impact Statement or additional review layers are necessary or appropriate here.



I have heard concerns raised about the economic impact of this expansion on other dairy farms. I understand those concerns — competition is real and farming is hard. But the environmental permitting process is not the right place to resolve questions about dairy industry structure or farm size. Those are conversations for the legislature. Using environmental review to block or delay a project that has met the applicable standards would set a troubling precedent and undermine a process that all of us in agriculture depend on.

Riverview has done the work. They have earned this permit. I encourage the MPCA to proceed based on the science, trust the process, and support the kind of responsible dairy growth that keeps Minnesota competitive and keeps farm families on the land.

Sincerely,

Michael Crinion

Ash Grove Dairy