

Riverview: Support for West River Expansion 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Riverview is a good, reliable, and valuable neighbor. For 23 years, my family and I have been living one mile west of the original Riverview Dairy site. There have been no issues or annoyances in 23 years. I have no concerns that they will continue to be a responsible neighbor. If I didn't look out my windows I wouldn't even know they exist. Riverview has been, and I'm very confident that they will be, a responsible and good neighbor in the future.

In addition, I live 125 feet off the Pomme de Terre River and approximately one mile downstream from the original site and if anyone has a reason to be nervous, it is myself and my family. We have no reservations about this dairy expanding either, if that would be the case in the future.

Is life perfect? No. Does change happen? Yes. Can accidents happen? Yes. And if anything would happen at this site or any other site for that matter, Riverview would do everything in their power to make the situation right. I have complete confidence in their ethics and their practices.

I am an enthusiastic and informed dairy supporter. I grew up on a dairy farm in NW Iowa and I am a 1984 graduate of South Dakota State University's dairy manufacturing program, which is the science and processing of milk and dairy products. We need the stability that Riverview provides to the dairy industry as a whole.

Riverview is not driving small dairy farmers out of business. Small dairy farmers are retiring and there are very few if no successors that are willing to step into this most grueling, labor-intensive, and very time-intensive operation. This is not an 8-5 job. It is 24/7, 365 days a year with little to no vacation time because cows don't stop giving milk on weekends and holidays. This industry is not for the faint of heart, lazy, or people that can't stand up to hard work and taking risks.

In the early to mid-80's I was just entering the dairy industry. In the midwest the milk supply was cyclical, existing dairy plants were older and in need of updating, and California was seen as the only state where the dairy industry was viable and profitable. Over the next several decades, the dairy industry in the Midwest has stabilized and is in a growth mode, thanks in part to companies such as Riverview that have provided a steady supply of milk to dairy plants in the area. This steady milk supply has allowed the dairy industry stability with steady supplies of nature's most nutritious product (milk) that have enhanced the communities where they are located.

As a member of the Morris Area school board from 2008-2018 with four years serving as board president, the Morris area community saw the stabilization of the general population and subsequent growth of the student population. The population in Stevens County in 1990 was 10,621 citizens and by 2010 the population had decreased to 9,726 citizens. From 2010 on, our community has seen a bottoming out of the population, and then has experienced subsequent growth, with the present population being 9,819. I believe this is due in large part, to the investment and growth of companies in our county such as Riverview. People don't just show up in west central Minnesota without available jobs waiting to be filled.

The town of Morris (population of approximately 5,000 citizens) is thriving, rather than dying, like so many detractors would like you to believe. Our downtown has been revitalized. We have a

new department store, a new hotel, a new steakhouse, and many thriving businesses and restaurants. Operations people and professionals alike eat, shop, and enjoy our natural resources in Morris.

I find it remarkable, and very exciting to see Riverview playing a key role in providing stability not only to the dairy industry, but to our county and the surrounding area. With this dairy expansion, there would be good paying jobs and satisfying work for the Riverview employees, new tax revenue for the county, all while knowing they are helping to provide dairy products to not only you and I, but to our fellow citizens.

I want to reiterate my enthusiastic support for this project and thank you for your consideration in this matter. I encourage you to stand behind this project and all the benefits it will bring to our local and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,
Dick Metzger