

Steven Vogel

I was born and raised and educated in neighboring Wisconsin, but have worked and lived in the Washington, DC suburbs since 1977. I am extremely concerned about whether the impacts of an operation this large can be managed safely, including:

1) Manure volume:

18,855 cows would produce an estimated 285,000 gallons of manure every day--about 520,000 tons per year--nearly 40% of Morris's daily water use.

2) Groundwater risks:

Potential contamination from manure storage and land application.

3) Drinking water:

Increased nitrate levels that can threaten private wells and public health.

4) Air quality:

Odor and emissions that affect the quality of life for nearby residents.

5) Farm consolidation:

Pressure on small and mid-sized family farms (like the ones both of my parents grew up on in southwestern Wisconsin) and a continued "get big or get out" model.

6) Cumulative impacts:

Multiple large CAFOs are concentrated in one region, with limited oversight.

7) Market Saturation:

Mega-dairies like Riverview dominate the milk market, and expanding this facility would further flood it, making it even harder for small farms to survive.

For all of the above solidly fact-based reasons, I respectfully but sincerely urge the MPCA to reject the expansion of this CAFO.