

Carol Dines

I am writing to express my shock over the size of the proposed dairy in Morris, and to urge the MPCA to turn down their license to expand. Factory farming pollutes our water systems, and despite extensive storage systems, leaks are inevitable. A dairy of this size will use too much water and inevitably contaminate our air. This kind of factory farm is part of what drives climate change. Moreover, it is the kind of farm that can create a bio-hazard. What if some kind of virus takes hold, and that many cows have to be euthanized. It's a tragedy waiting to happen. Milk is consumed less now, partly because of consumers' concerns about large dairy farms. Why should we risk polluting our land and air to export our milk to other countries? That's what this expansion is about. Please do not allow this dairy to expand. It will only set a new precedent for other dairies around the state who are in competition. We need to fight climate change in all ways, including in our food production systems. Lastly, I'm an animal rights advocate and I can only imagine the kind of lives those cows live, locked inside large barns, their bodies given antibiotics to avoid viruses, milked until they're no longer useful, and then discarded. It's a moral failure in our country.

Thank you,
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