

## Ethan Bruer

Hello, my name is Ethan Bruer, I'm a life long resident and 5th generation farmer of Stevens county. Our family farm which started in 1884 is west of west river dairy 4 miles.

I've been reading most of these comments made and I also attended the public meeting in Morris. I'd like to point out a few things from an observation of mine. RiverView had people standing outside the Old No. 1 at 4:45pm for a meeting that was supposed to start at 6pm. Talk about stacking the deck. Lots of people in this community knew this was going to be a large meeting, yet the planned event space was exceptionally small for the masses that wanted to come and voice their views. Unfortunately many people were denied entry due to space. I'd suggest having a second meeting at a larger venue.

That being said, from what I've gathered are, if you're tied to Riverview in any way, employee, shareholder, family or any financial ties you're in favor of the expansion. Which stands to reason. But you need to look beyond on that and think what's good for the environment. Those who weren't, seemed to have genuine questions or concerns about the project. Almost each person who was in favor wrote a sermon on how great RiverView was followed by a softball lob of a question to the MPCA panel to tie it in at the end. Are we playing to emotion or are we going to look at facts, data and research? Data such as wind erosion, water, manure, nitrate runoff, all aspects that impact the environment and those around it.

With that said, I will say Riverview does a nice job keeping their facilities clean and well maintained.

I've debated writing a comment on this as I feel it puts a target on my back being a smaller farm in the area who cannot compete on such a scale as Riverview. We all know smaller farms are going away as years go by. But when that happens you don't have a community anymore. The more people and farms you have in a community the better it thrives. Not less when the "competition" is driven out. As a fifth generation farmer I want to pass this legacy and way of life down to my children. I just hope the resources, (land and water) are here for them and their kids. But with large a scale operation like Riverview it's hard to compete and be optimistic.

I'd suggest there needs to be an EIS done on this project. Something of this scale needs to have every component looked at. Whether it passes or not. There needs to be a standard or precedent for such large projects.

Thank you for you time  
Ethan Bruer