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Minnesota's largest dairy producer, Riverview LLP, has applied to build the first livestock facility in Minnesota. If built, the facility will hold 18,855 dairy cattle, bringing the total animal units to 26,397 in one place. This proposed expansion would be nearly double the size of the next largest livestock operation in our state in terms of animal units. This expanded Riverview facility would be more than 60 times the size of the average Minnesota dairy, which had fewer than 280 cows in 2025. This makes it a fundamentally new and particularly powerful threat to Minnesota farmers and rural communities.

Riverview, based out of Morris, Minn., is one of the largest milk producers in the country. The firm now owns 16 permitted dairy CAFOs in Minnesota alone, and these facilities house a total of more than 135,000 cows, according to the Star Tribune. That accounts for nearly a third of the state's entire dairy herd. Riverview also has a major presence in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Arizona.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), which is the agency that issues Minnesota's feedlot permits, must recognize the fundamentally new nature of this threat and give this permit greater scrutiny than it ever has to previous proposals. This proposal by Riverview must be required to undergo a full environmental impact statement (EIS). We should be supporting more family run dairy farms.