

Levi Koehl

My name is Levi Koehl and I am a resident of Stevens County. I currently live between two of the existing Riverview dairies, one of them being West River of the proposed expansion. I grew up here as well and have lived in the community all of my life. I farm here with my family and we have the benefit of working with Riverview, including selling crops, receiving manure for fertilizer, and we also provide custom services for the dairies. They are always good to work with, they maintain very high standards for their sites and the other operations that go along with it. The business Riverview does in the community is an economic engine that provides a lot of employment directly and indirectly. As a former employee of Riverview I can also say that they treat their employees very well.

As far as the concerns around water, I can say that within the last 3 years I have worked to develop a couple of our own new wells (residential and irrigation) in the region exactly between these existing dairies, and we have found there to be plenty of water, and of good quality as well. My family and I drink it everyday. Being a life long resident here, I have also enjoyed living near the Pomme de Terre River. I can tell you that often, my kids go fishing there and catch many different species of fish, just as I did 20-25 years ago.

As one drives across rural America, you see the decline of many of the small towns and the main streets that are the backbone of this great country. The communities that survive and thrive are the ones where people and their families stay and do business, innovate and move forward. Stevens County is such a community, and we enjoy a lively, vibrant main street because of it.

For these reasons and many more not mentioned, I support the expansion of West River Dairy.