

Flatland Custom Forage LLC. (Eric Smith)

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

ATTN: Charles Peterson

520 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Support for West River Dairy Expansion

My name is Eric Smith, and I own and operate Flatland Custom Forage LLC and Flatland Farms LLC in Cleveland Township, Lake Norden, SD (Hamlin County). I am writing today to express my full support for the proposed West River Dairy Expansion.

As a local business owner and farmer, my operation is deeply integrated with the dairy industry. We handle all the forage harvesting for Riverview's Garfield Dairy and grow a significant amount of corn and alfalfa specifically for their operations. Based on my direct experience, Riverview operates with an unmatched level of professionalism and environmental integrity. Their facilities are impeccably maintained, and their team is dedicated to doing things the right way.

In my experience with agriculture in this region, I see firsthand that Riverview doesn't just follow regulations, they strive to exceed them. Whether it is nutrient management planning, soil testing, or precise application timing, their mindset is rooted in responsible stewardship. The use of manure as a nutrient source has provided clear benefits to our local land, improving soil health and organic matter while supporting long-term sustainability.

Beyond the environmental aspects, the economic impact on our rural community cannot be overstated. These dairies provide vital opportunities for the next generation of farm kids to return to the family business—opportunities that simply would not exist otherwise. My own business growth and ability to come back to the farm would not have been possible without Riverview's presence in our area. They reward those willing to work hard and commit to efficiency and quality; if you are dedicated to excellence, Riverview is a loyal partner that stands by your side.

I understand this project is undergoing a rigorous environmental review process. Based on Riverview's proven track record and the existing regulatory oversight, I am confident they will continue to operate responsibly. I believe the current review process is sufficient and that an EIS is not necessary.

I respectfully encourage the appropriate agencies to approve the West River Dairy Expansion to continue supporting local agriculture and the families who depend on it.

Sincerely,

Eric Smith

Flatland Custom Forage LLC

Flatland Farms LLC

Cleveland Township, Hamlin County