

# Ann DuHamel

As a resident of Stevens county for almost 17 years, I am EXTREMELY concerned about this proposed expansion, and how it will impact both the quality of life for the people who live here as well as the environmental impacts for water, flora, and fauna in the area.

I wholeheartedly agree with the Land Stewardship Project that a full Environmental Impact Statement must be completed, because of these reasons:

- GHG testing and estimating as part of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet was based only on the number of cows Riverview LLP intends to add, not including the base amount of cows they already have. This leaves an incomplete picture of the true costs to the environment, the community, the water, and the land.
- This proposed operation is the first of its size in Minnesota. It would be nearly DOUBLE the size of the next largest livestock operation in our state in terms of animal units. This makes it a fundamentally new and particularly powerful threat to Minnesota farmers and rural communities. The MPCA should give it scrutiny as such.
- Riverview has a recent history of manure spills in western Minnesota. (YIKES!) In Arizona, the company recently agreed to deliver \$11 million to residents affected by the dairy's overpumping.
- The proposed Stevens County site sits within five miles of eight different protected waterfowl and wildlife production areas and is part of the Pomme de Terre River watershed, just 25 miles from its confluence with the Minnesota River. A facility of this scale located in such a vulnerable area calls for a thorough environmental review.
- Minnesota has lost 528 dairy farms in the last 4 years, and what's even more concerning, has lost 1,987 dairy farms since 2017. Our state is losing dozens of dairy farms a year due to inconsistent and often below cost-of-production milk prices. This disaster in price is largely caused by massive dairy operations, being able to glut the milk market with cheaper-to-produce milk, making it hard for smaller family farms to compete. As a descendant of Minnesota dairy farmers, this expansion seems contrary to the spirit of supporting our hard-working citizens and farmers.
- The Environmental Assessment Worksheet prepared for this project claims that the project will overall reduce GHG emissions because they will not be using anhydrous ammonia on the fields that have manure being spread on them. This grossly undercounts the true emissions of an operation of this scale and must be reviewed further in a full Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for your consideration!