

Phillip Horsager

My name is Phillip Horsager, and I am a neighbor, farmer, and business owner in Grace Township, Chippewa County. I am writing in support of the proposed West River Dairy Expansion.

Based on my experience and observations, Riverview Dairy operates with professionalism, integrity, and environmental responsibility. Their facilities are well-maintained, clean, and organized, and their teams are committed to doing things well and respectfully.

As someone familiar with agriculture in this region, I recognize that manure management and water use are highly regulated in Minnesota. All my experience indicates that Riverview strives to follow these regulations, including nutrient management planning, soil testing, proper application rates, and timing based on field conditions. From what I have seen, their mindset is to meet and exceed these standards to ensure responsible stewardship.

The use of manure as a nutrient source has clear benefits for local farms, including improved soil health, increased organic matter and reduced erosion. This supports long-term agricultural sustainability. Riverview has also been a strong community partner, supporting farmers, creating jobs, maintaining roads, and investing in schools and local programs. Their communication with neighbors and officials reflects their commitment to being a good neighbor.

I understand that this project is undergoing environmental review through the state's established process. Based on the available data, existing regulations, and Riverview's positive track record, I believe this project can continue to operate responsibly. I believe the current review process is sufficient and that additional regulatory burdens are unhelpful.

I respectfully encourage the appropriate agencies to approve the West River Dairy Expansion. This project supports local agriculture, strengthens rural communities, and reflects a responsible approach to environmental stewardship. I also believe that an EIS is ill-disposed to benefit the community, the environment, and the State.

Sincerely,
Phillip Horsager
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