

# Wendy Evink

Dear Commissioner Kessler and MPCA Staff,

I have lived in Stevens County my entire life, and I care deeply about what happens here — to the land, the water, and the people who call this place home. I am writing in strong support of the proposed West River Dairy expansion near Morris.

I'll be honest — I'm not an expert in water management or nutrient regulations. But I've asked a lot of questions over the years, and I've listened carefully to the people who are. What I've come to understand is that the Environmental Assessment Worksheet process the MPCA requires is no rubber stamp. It digs deep. And what Riverview has laid out in this application — from how they handle manure as a soil-building resource rather than a waste product, to how they capture and reuse rainwater runoff on-site — tells me this isn't just about meeting the minimum. Our land and water won't just be protected under this plan. From what I've learned, they stand to genuinely improve. That's not something I expected to be able to say, but the more I looked into it, the more I believed it.

To me, this is what good regulation is supposed to look like — when the rules, the operator's commitment, and smart thinking about the land all come together in the same place at the same time.

What means the most to me personally is what this operation has meant for my family and so many others like us. One of my children was able to come back home, find good work, and raise a family here because of the kind of economic foundation that operations like West River Dairy help provide. That is not a small thing. Keeping rural communities like ours alive depends on being able to offer that to the next generation.

The environmental review process has been thorough. Riverview's track record speaks for itself. I respectfully urge the MPCA to approve this expansion — it's good for our land, good for our water, and good for the future of this community.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Evink  
Morris, MN  
Stevens County