

# Sarah Winikoff

I think that the proposed project should be rejected.

As a PhD aquatic ecologist and freshwater biologist, I see the proposed project as a threat to public health in the nearby communities.

Confined animal operations have long been known to degrade surface and groundwater supplies by increasing the incidence of fecal coliform, increasing nitrogen and phosphorous loading, and increasing the concentration and prevalence of antibiotic resistant bacterial communities.

I have further concerns about how the proposed project will influence water availability to nearby communities as climate change continues to alter water availability in space and time.

Finally, I see the proposed project as a potential threat to community health because a confined animal operation of this size increases the risk of rapid pathogen spread should one of the emerging viruses establish within the herd (e.g., avian influenza). Not only would this hurt the cattle in such an operation, but concentrating animals in these quantities increases the risk of spread to human populations as well.

In conclusion, I am opposed to an animal confinement operation of this size and magnitude anywhere, but particularly in a small rural community when there has been little or no environmental impact assessment.