

# Minnesota Milk Producers Association (Lucas Sjostrom)

To: Charles Peterson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

From: Minnesota Milk Producers Association Board of Directors

The Minnesota Milk Producers Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the West River Dairy expansion. As an organization dedicated to the success of Minnesota's dairy farmers, our focus remains on ensuring that the state's regulatory frameworks are applied consistently, fairly, and based on sound science.

## Support for a Science-Based Regulatory Process

We encourage the MPCA to maintain its commitment to a science-based and data-driven process. The current environmental review for this project is comprehensive. We believe the existing regulatory tools—including the EAW and the potential for individual permits with specific conditions—are sufficient to ensure the protection of Minnesota's water and natural resources.

- **Proper Jurisdiction:** The environmental review process is designed to assess significant environmental impacts, not to dictate public policy regarding the size or structure of dairy farms.
- **Legislative Authority:** We believe the Minnesota Legislature is the appropriate body to determine broader economic policies that support the dairy industry and its farmers.
- **Regulatory Integrity:** Utilizing the environmental permitting process to address economic competition issues is inappropriate and risks undermining the integrity of the state's regulatory system.

## Conclusion

Minnesota's dairy sector thrives when there is a transparent, predictable, and rigorous permitting process. We support the MPCA's use of the established EAW process to evaluate this project and encourage a final decision based on the technical merits and data presented throughout this review.