

Dave Vipond

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Letter of Support for Riverview Farms – West River Dairy Expansion

Dear MPCA Review Team,

I am writing to express my strong support for Riverview Farms' plans to expand their West River Dairy operation.

I grew up on a small dairy farm and saw firsthand how environmental practices and oversight can vary across operations. Smaller, unregulated dairies are often not held to the same environmental standards, monitoring, or accountability as modern, permitted operations. That experience has given me a strong appreciation for farms like Riverview that operate transparently under strict regulatory oversight.

Riverview Farms is among the best at what they do. They are highly environmentally conscious and consistently go the extra mile to ensure their operations protect land, water, and surrounding communities. They do not cut corners. Their long-standing commitment to responsible manure management, water protection, and environmental compliance is well documented and proven through their existing operations.

The additional cows proposed as part of this expansion are not introducing anything new or untested. Riverview Farms has extensive experience managing operations of this size safely and responsibly. The current Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) process is doing exactly what it is intended to do—evaluating potential impacts and ensuring environmental protections are in place.

Based on Riverview Farms' proven track record and the safeguards provided through the EAW process, this expansion does not warrant a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The existing environmental review process already provides adequate protection for Minnesota's natural resources while allowing responsible agricultural operations to move forward.

Riverview Farms has shown that agricultural growth and strong environmental stewardship can go hand in hand. I respectfully encourage the MPCA to consider their outstanding environmental record and support the proposed West River Dairy expansion.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for the important work you do to protect Minnesota's environment.

Sincerely,
Dave Vipond