

Kim Hiltner

I am writing to express my concerns with Riverview, LLP's proposal to build the first livestock operation in Minnesota to hold over 20,000 animal units. The MPCA must recognize the fundamentally new nature of this threat and give this permit greater scrutiny than it ever has to previous proposals. This proposal must be required to undergo a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on its impacts on water quality and quantity, local roads, and existing independent family dairy farms to be fully analyzed before the project is allowed to seek a permit. Minnesota is already losing dozens of dairy farms annually due to inconsistent and often below cost-of-production milk prices. Agricultural consolidation is pushing small and medium-sized family farms out of business and off the land. We must require an EIS before this proceeds.