

Erika Gilsdorf

Hello,

I find it interesting that you write 'we value your comments'. I have been attending numerous county meetings, shared videos about public comments against CAFOs, attended numerous meetings and discussions and the opinion of people doesn't reach the decision makers interested in purely money and profit. I find it disgusting and appalling that treating livestock in these manners of concentrated animal feeding operations where animals are trapped inside, the manure is collected below them because they never leave and their conditions are horrific. But, why should we care about animals? It's about money, right? Profit, right? What about the environment? Why should we care about that? It's about money, right? Profit, right? Do we need to care that the animal waste has to go somewhere and that regulations of how that is handled safely without impacts to pollution, harm to our rivers, lakes and groundwater is not even close to being safe and regulated? What about setting a precedent for this area that prioritizes care of animals, care of our waters, care of our communities...does that matter? Or, is it profit and greed all put under the nice umbrella of 'economic growth' and 'feeding the people'. There are better ways that don't harm animals, land, water, and yes...people. These large operations are overtaking small family farms, bringing traffic, pollution, roads and extra impact to local community structures. Is that what you want? It seems so. The voice of a CAFO owner, seems to continually outweigh the voice of many. And, animals don't have a voice so it is as if they don't count. It's disgusting. It's time that MPCA takes a stand on stopping the pollution. What?! Stopping pollution? That's crazy. It seems like you're open to discussing pollution and degradation of our natural systems and the animals that we live and rely on for a company's growth and expansion. This is not just one decision but the tipping point of many more to follow. It's like an open door saying, hey, all you CAFO's, come on over to West Central Minnesota. They don't have the courage to stand up and demand something different. A better way. It's a free for all to use and abuse and when we've used it up, maybe we'll move up to Canada? I mean, Iowa is already taking it in the shorts with their CAFO's. I'm fairly confident no one has read this. But, if you have, seriously, do not let this expansion happen. It's disgusting, appalling, and needs to be rejected. Please, please, stand up for what is right and just to our animals, our communities, and our lakes, rivers and natural world. There is no turning back from this decision.