

## Susan Scherer

Having grown up near a central Minnesota town (Long Prairie), which had a creamery, a locker plant, a meat market, supplied by local small dairy and beef farms, I am full of appreciation for those resources. My classmates were from those farms, so "town kids" and "farm kids" knew each other and we all understood the value of our parents' livelihoods, whether they were farmers or community employees. It was a balanced economy with cooperation and understanding of everyone's part in making it successful. We all cared!

Distance and size have removed much of that understanding, and reduced the businesses that made this kind of cooperation successful and gratifying. I believe that those mental and physical health benefits lost of personally knowing and understanding the value of small, caring communities has led to more violence, more mental illness, more isolation, while large corporations have made profit their sole goal, while caring nothing for the community. It does not add to a democratic, caring society, and we're seeing the effects at all levels of government and business.

Thank you Attorney General Ellison for listening to this eloquent plea from a small farm owner.

Sincerely,  
Susan Scherer