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The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) must require the proposal by Riverview, LLC to undergo a full Environmental Impact Statement in order to analyze the potential negative impacts on water quality and quantity, local roads, and existing independent family dairy farms. Riverview's recent history of manure spills in Western Minnesota (including a manure leak from a biogas digester system in March of last year), as well as the recent settlement the company had to pay out to Arizona residents who had been affected by the dairy over pumping water, both raise concerns that Riverview's planned CAFO will adhere to the state and local regulations that protect people and water systems. And given that the proposed site for this new CAFO sits within five miles of eight different protected waterfowl and wildlife production areas and is part of the Pomme de Terre River watershed, just 25 miles from its confluence with the Minnesota River, any pollution is likely to have far reaching consequences.

I spent thirteen years living in Iowa prior to moving to Minnesota. Most of Iowa's animal agriculture operations are CAFOs, and regulation is minimal. As a result, most of Iowa's rivers and streams are aggressively polluted, many as a result of uncontained manure run-off. I do not want to see the same thing happen here.

Furthermore, Minnesota is already losing dozens of dairy farms annually due to inconsistent and often below cost-of-production milk prices. Massive dairy operations, like the one Riverview is proposing to build, have glutted the market and tightened Big Milk's stranglehold on the industry, allowing them to push small and medium-sized family farms out of business and off the land. This operation would only exacerbate the situation and accelerate the loss of dairy farms in our state, decimating Main Street economies in the process.

Before signing off on Riverview, LLC's proposal, the MPCA must require a full Environmental Impact Statement to be conducted. This way, the potential scope of hazards or problems can be evaluated and documented before any final decisions are made.