

Lee Ann Hall

My name is Lee Ann Hall. I am a Norman County Commissioner in Minnesota. This is my 24th year in that elected position. I also owned an Office Supply/Technology Center in Ada, MN for over twenty years. I recently sold my business as part of my retirement process. I am also a board member of the Norman County Economic Development Authority and the Secretary/Treasurer of the Ada Chamber of Commerce.

I am writing in support of the proposed West River Dairy expansion in Stevens County. I have experienced firsthand the positive impact that Riverview/Waukon Dairy has had to the vitality and economics of Norman County, the Ada community, local businesses and our local farmers. Their operation located in Waukon Township has had a huge economic impact! They are dedicated to the local community and businesses in our County. They buy local, they fixed up an old apartment facility in Twin Valley during their construction process and turned it into an asset for the community, partnered with local farmers in buying from them direct for products needed and selling to them direct for different needs that they have on the farms and so much more!

Riverview/Waukon Dairy has built a strong stable livestock business that creates consistent economic activity that supports local jobs and allows businesses for flourish and grow. The dairy has been a great neighbor to the surrounding farmers. They run a clean, efficient and necessary business in Norman County. As a Commissioner, I have heard nothing but great things about their operation and their commitment to work with our local farmers and communities. They are involved in many community events and also donate things like ice cream, cheese and help by volunteering to enhance the events.

The management of the Dairy has been a great partner, attending the Norman County Board meetings to give us updates while they were building the Dairy and after on updates with their Dairy operation. They also have attended the Norman County EDA meetings to keep us updated. They welcome tours of their facility with open arms and encourage people to check them out. We appreciate their willingness to be transparent and keep us "in the know."

The proposed expansion will bring a huge economic benefit to Stevens County by generating demand for local vendors, support construction and employment and add to the vitality of County. These types of projects are essential to maintaining a sustainable economy in rural Minnesota. The Norman County EDA works hard to get new businesses into our County. We were so excited and blessed that they considered and put their operation on our rural county!

No EIS is needed as the State Environmental Review process is rigorous and sufficient. I respectfully encourage your support and approval of this important project.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Hall