

Kaleb Heins

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency ATTN: Charles Peterson 520 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Public Comment in Support of the West River Dairy Expansion

My name is Kaleb Heins, and I have lived in Stevens County for the past 15 years. I am writing in support of the proposed West River Dairy expansion.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to engage with Riverview in several meaningful ways that have shaped both my personal and professional growth. Through completing an internship with Riverview, I gained valuable hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of the agricultural industry. Additionally, I was fortunate to receive a scholarship from Riverview that helped fund my college education - support that made a lasting difference for me and my family.

Riverview's impact extends beyond education and into youth development in our community. Through their dairy calf lease program, I was able to participate in the Stevens County 4-H dairy program, an experience that taught responsibility, work ethic, and leadership. Their involvement in helping build the new dairy barn on the Stevens County Fairgrounds has further strengthened opportunities for young people to learn and grow in agriculture.

From what I have observed, the existing dairy operation is clean, well-maintained, and professionally managed. These qualities matter to those of us who live and work in the area, and they reflect the standards Riverview upholds.

I also understand that the project is currently undergoing environmental review by the state. I value that these processes are in place, and I believe the current review and permitting system provides appropriate and thorough oversight.

Beyond its operations, the dairy plays an important role in supporting the local economy by creating jobs, partnering with local businesses, and contributing to the agricultural community. These benefits are vital to rural areas like Stevens County.

For these reasons, and based on my personal experience, I support the proposed expansion.

Sincerely,
Kaleb Heins