

Chenoa Marks

I am writing as a resident and student in Morris with concerns regarding the proposed Riverview West River Dairy expansion in Stevens County.

Given the scale of this project, I believe that a full Environmental Impact Statement must be conducted before any approval is considered. The potential long-term environmental impacts on groundwater, surface water, and the overall health of our local ecosystem, are too significant to be addressed through a limited review process alone. There is much we don't know about our water systems, and they are already vulnerable as is.

In addition to environmental concerns, there are also broader implications for local agriculture. Expanding an operation of this size has the potential to change the local dairy market, placing increased pressure on small and mid-sized farms that are already facing economic challenges. The long-term sustainability of our local agricultural community should be prioritized, and not on economic gains.

As someone who lives, studies, and participates in this community, it is my hope that the decision makers take a precautionary and thorough approach to preserve our water systems and for the wellbeing of the community.

-Chenoa Marks