Joni 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 Joni 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.

Having grown up in the dairy industry, I understand firsthand the level of care, responsibility, and management required to run a quality operation. From what I have observed, the existing farm is clean, well maintained, and professionally managed. That is important to those of us who live nearby.

I also appreciate the positive role Riverview has played in our community over the years. Their support of programs like 4-H and FFA, along with providing scholarships, jobs, and learning opportunities for local students, has made a meaningful impact in rural areas like ours, including for my own children.

I understand the project is currently undergoing environmental review by the state, and I value that these processes are in place. In my experience, the existing review and permitting system is thorough and appropriate, and I believe it provides sufficient oversight for this project.

Beyond that, the dairy contributes to the local economy by supporting farmers, creating jobs, and partnering with local businesses - something that is vital to communities like ours.

For these reasons, I support the proposed expansion.

Sincerely,
Joni Heins