

Former Neighbor

I am a former resident of Stevens County and neighbor to Riverview. I have many family members in the area and have plans to return to the community. I was also part of the contingency that was successful in requiring a full environmental impact review that shut down their planned expansion south of Chokio in Baker township 10+ years ago. You're Welcome Stevens County! The biggest issue then, as it is now, is water. The aquifer simply wasn't meant to sustain this density of animals. Stevens County has enough cows. The market is saturated already with Milk. Has anyone taken a critical look into the finances of these megadairies. Milk prices are subsidized by the federal government and the market is saturated. The buildout on these large dairies is in the \$50M-\$100M range. These expansions are not financed with equity. Why? Because milk prices have never supported \$50M-\$100M capital investments. They are financed with new investors and that is why they have to keep building them. Constant expansion to avoid the inevitable collapse when the bill comes due. All of this at the expense of our aquifer and the environment. Essentially a Ponzi scheme to eat up resources and drive out small business and keep milk prices compressed. Definitely not the free markets at work. I am sure that Riverview is a good steward in the community. I can't argue one way or another because I don't live there. If I ran the company I would make sure I invested heavily in making sure the labor and resources I were exploiting felt like they were valued. I saw a lot of comments from local businesses talking about the economic engine that Riverview is and how happy they were doing business with them. It is never good to have your customer base this consolidated. If I were a business and Riverview was my only customer, I am not going to be around long. Riverview will only be around as long as they can find new investors to keep the expansion ahead of the bill.