

Rachel Nielsen

My concerns regarding this project center on animal welfare and environmental impact. CAFOs pose well known and documented environmental risk not just due to manure management but as a result of destruction of grazing land and wildlife habitat.

Housing nearly 20,000 cows in such a small area is also an obvious animal welfare issue. Cows are biologically designed to graze, not to feed on grains in confinement. This poses many known health risks to the animals and is inherently cruel; collectively we should be moving away from this model of dairying.

Allowing this project to go forward would benefit only the company who will profit from the destruction of the land, the inhumane treatment of the animals, and the many risks to the environment (immediate, long term, and downstream), and provide no to very little benefit to the people living in its vicinity or Minnesotans at large.

It would be very impressive should Riverview Dairy choose to move to a grazing model of dairy farming, which honors the lives of the cows and benefits our shared environment.

These are my own words.
Thank you for considering them.

Sincerely,
Rachel Nielsen