

James Tjepkma

I formerly lived among farmers in Southern Minnesota and have done various kinds of educational and service work with farmers both for pay and as a volunteer. Much of what I did focused on sustainable agriculture. I have also participated in actions lead by an environmental group that included apposing a project that required an Environmental Impact Statement. Based on my understanding of EISs and of sustainable agriculture and agriculture in general I am strong in support requiring an EIS for the West River Dairy Expansion Project.

If this project goes forward there is no doubt it would have great potential for many kinds of environmental damage and damage to communities near by as well as wider damage to the state's dairy industries. I don't see how this would not be true for an operation that would be very much larger than any current existing operation. I don't think I need to list all of the ways such a large operation would have the potential for being very damaging in many ways. An EIS is very definitely needed to looked at these potential damages, present this information to the public, and hold hearing where the public can be informed and can make comments.