

# Shane Reynolds

I am writing in support of Riverview's dairy expansion at West River Dairy and to oppose the imposition of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in this case.

The existing Environmental Assessment Worksheet process, combined with the Minnesota DNR's separate aquifer review, represents a thorough and appropriate level of environmental scrutiny for a dairy operation of this kind. The current process is extensive, well-established, and sufficient. Requiring an EIS would set a damaging regulatory precedent for dairy agriculture across Minnesota and the Upper Midwest.

Beyond the regulatory question, it's worth acknowledging what an operation like Riverview's expansion means for the surrounding community. Dairy farms of this scale are economic anchors for rural Minnesota — they create direct jobs on the farm and ripple through dozens of supporting businesses, from equipment and feed suppliers to veterinary services and local contractors. Critically, they create a reliable, local demand source for the crops that Minnesota's grain farmers produce, strengthening the agricultural economy as a whole. Opposing this expansion doesn't just affect Riverview — it affects an entire ecosystem of rural livelihoods that depend on a thriving dairy industry.

I have extensive professional experience working with large dairy operations across the country, and Riverview ranks among the highest-standards operators I have encountered. Their commitment to infrastructure quality, animal welfare, and responsible land and water stewardship gives me real confidence that this expansion will be executed with the care the community deserves.

The current review process is sufficient. I urge the MPCA to approve this project without an EIS requirement.

Shane Reynolds