

Lucas Koehl

I am writing in support of the MPCA approving Riverview's Permit application to expand West River Dairy in Synnes Township. I have lived in Stevens County for 42 years, and currently live close by 2 of Riverview's dairy sites. Riverview's sites are among the cleanest, if not the cleanest and well maintained in the industry. Riverview operates their business in a manner that is conscious of those around them, realizing the value of being a good neighbor in the community. Riverview hauls harvested feed past my house and pays for chloride to be applied to the road. If this isn't sufficient, they are quick to water the road as well, respecting local residences, and creating a safer roadway with less dust.

Speaking as a former employee, Riverview has created many employment opportunities locally. My family operates a business supporting the dairies operations of harvesting feed and field applying manure. Manure application operations are done complying with MPCA's strict standards. Manure produced from Riverview's dairies is a very valuable resource for local farmers, being able to cycle naturally produced nutrients back where they came from in order to grow the next years crop.

The dairy expansion will create demand for more feed, including many more acres of alfalfa. Alfalfa adds diversity to crop rotations, reducing crop disease and insect pressure, promoting soil health and increasing profitability for other crops.

This expansion project will provide gainful employment and business opportunities currently and in the future for the families that live in our community.

For these reasons, I strongly support the West River Dairy Expansion.

Respectfully,

Lucas Koehl