From: Robin Johnson
To: Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Subject: Comments on Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 8:59:42 AM

Dear Mr. Gunderson,

After attending the Listening Session in Warren today I feel the need to ask those working on the fertilizer rule to take into account the major differences between northwest Minnesota and the other crop producing areas of our state. One of the major differences is the length of our season. Since we are so short of time if we weren't allowed to do fall application there is no way everyone would get things properly done in the spring. There would not be adequate equipment, labor or even fertilizer to do the job. We have been through product shortages in the past as we are on the end of the pipeline and the needs of those south of us are met before we get more fertilizer than what was stored prior to season. This has happened in springs where there was nitrogen applied in the preceding fall so one can only imagine what it might be without any.

I also feel that we do not have the problems they have elsewhere. It was upsetting to see us included in this proposed ruling when there had not been much for science applied to our region. Until studies show we have a problem, or at least the start of one, I don't think we should be forced to take a cure for a disease we don't have.

As pointed out at the meeting, farmers in this area are very proactive, using the best technology, hiring expert consultants, and need to be sharp businessmen to survive the economic climate we are in. Over application of fertilizer does not fit the business plan as we can't afford any unnecessary input costs.

I ask that this region not be included in this regulation.

Respectfully,

Robin Johnson

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