From: Peter Kramer
To: Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Subject: Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Comments
Date: Monday, August 21, 2017 6:30:04 AM

Dear Supervisor Gunderson,

As a farmer, I am writing to express concerns with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's proposed nitrogen fertilizer rule. Water is important to me and my family, however, there are concerns that need to be addressed in this proposed rule.

The Department of Agriculture needs to conduct more thorough research before nitrogen limitations are put into place. Instead of a rule, the Department should support outreach and education efforts to further the adoption of improved nitrogen management practices. Research focus should be on the most up-to-date best management practices, timed applications of nitrogen fertilizer, and usage of precision agriculture technology.

Water quality is a top priority for Minnesota farmers and ranchers. However, I urge the Department to do away with the first part of the proposed rule and instead focus on helping farmers implement best management practices that work on each farm, rather than another one-size fits all approach.

The current proposed monitoring system of using private wells is flawed. Many of these wells are not kept in good condition and are 50+ years old with leaky components. Please do not put this rule into effect until research is done that will accurately monitor the local situation out here instead of punishing whole townships for a positive test out of a faulty well.

Sincerely,

Peter Kramer
61472 270th St
Gibbon, MN 55335
mnsoildr@gmail.com