From: norfarmfieldservices@centurytel.net
To: Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Subject: Draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 8:58:47 AM

Dear Mr. Gunderson,

My name is Rob Sando and I work for Norfarm Seeds Inc. in Roseau, MN as a crop consultant. Norfarm Seeds is a family owned business since 1960 and we condition & market the highest quality seed through a global network of grass seed companies with a specialized staff.

I attended the meeting that was held in Roseau at the end of July. I have concerns for the proposed blanket proposal on fertilizer application during the fall season of the year. At Norfarm we work on a continuing basis with farmers from Roseau to Warren, Mahnomen, Macintosh, Winger, Fertile, Thief River Falls, Crookston and even into North Dakota. Turf grass seed production contributes a vital part of the local economy and as part of the management plan for the grass crops that we work with (Perennial Ryegrass, Reed Canary Grass, Tall Fescue, Bluegrass and Native grasses) fall application of nitrogen is an integral part of the overall management plan. I think that an exception to the rule would be any crop that is established should have priority for application in the fall.

The Farmers today are I believe good stewards of the ground they are currently farming. The current economics are more frugal and there are more precise farming practices that are currently being used. I do hope that you take into consideration the grass seed farming in NW Minnesota and any other farming practices across the state.

Thank You,
Rob Sando
Norfarm Seeds Inc.