From: Sean Collins
To: Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Subject: Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Comments
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 3:20:04 PM

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. We do our best to utilize our resources, for both economic and personal reasons. 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. This one size fits all approach will only have a negative effect on rural Minnesota, instead of working together to achieve realistic goals based on sound science and monitoring techniques.

Please stop the implementation of this rule!!

Sincerely,

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