From: David Van Loh
To: Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Subject: Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Comments
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 9:00:04 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. We now grid sample and monitor the best time to apply nitrogen. We have reduced the rate and produced more bushels. I believe my neighbors and I are more environmentally responsible than ever. We drink the water we "poison." You can believe that we don't want to be the ones putting nitrates in our drinking water. Give us voluntary incentives and we will give you clean water and food for tomorrow.

Thank you for listening,

Sincerely,

David Van Loh
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