From: Ed Davis
To: Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Subject: Nitrogen Application Input
Date: Friday, June 09, 2017 12:00:00 PM

Dear Larry:

Please consider the following ideas for the Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan. I also wish the listening sessions included a St. Paul event, as our food producers are not only stakeholders of this issue.

The history section seems very limited. The initial background paragraph suggests that the current production systems are fixed.

"Current agricultural crop production systems require the input of nitrogen fertilizer to increase food, fiber, feed, and fuel production for consumption by humans and livestock."

The production systems are not fixed and it are causing significant pollution. The plan has no system for accountability for the damages caused by this agriculture in the name of reduced food costs that are demanded by consumers. Assuming a capitalistic market, a enforcement system which charges the impacts of these systems back to the sources would help move the systems in a direction which discourage the requirement of the more mobile forms of nitrogen. For example, a tax on nitrogen fertilizer could be established and the proceeds used to upgrade water treatment plants or subsidize the purchase of filters to remove nitrates. The consumer would see an increase in food costs and adjust their purchases, which would influence the agricultural production systems. Consequently, this plan is a just weak bandaid as it does not promote/educate the accountability of all stakeholders from producer to consumer for creating the polluting farming industry that we have today.

Please amend it to include some system of enforceable standards for stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Ed Davis
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