From: Dan Lippert
To: Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Subject: Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Comments
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 9:20:04 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 of the utmost importance to all Minnesotan's as the essence of all life and especially to farmers who also depend on abundant, clean water for our livelihood through our crops and animals.

I fear the mishandling of efforts to protect the resource reduces the chance for genuine progress. The appearance of politicization and the selective application of data makes disbelievers out of rational people who know that this is a complex issue, without simple answers. You can't just make a rule and solve it. I therefor request that you redouble your efforts to show that you have considered for instance what the University validated Discovery Farms have taught us. That we spend time actually quantifying what the historic pre-settlement nutrient load was in these waters, then acknowledge what man has added, and how. Too often regulating agriculture is the go-to solution for complex problems that surface where man and nature intersect. I would urge the department to demonstrate that the proposed changes are successful on a smaller scale before going statewide, and quantify where and when. Otherwise it appears as a classic environmental blame shifting, with regulation as the first answer.

Sincerely,

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