From:	Dustin Perry
To:	Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Subject:	Draft nitrogen comment
Date:	Monday, August 21, 2017 9:14:01 AM

MN Dept of Agriculture

Draft Nitrogen Rule

I also submitted the same comment on the website, just wanted to make sure my comment was received.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns with this Nitrogen Rule. I am a 5th generation farmer in the Red River Valley. I have my Bachelors of Science from North Dakota State University with my major in agronomy and had a part focus in soil science. Under the current draft we have land that is in the affected area. In regards to the first part, we have tested our water and it has less ppm of nitrate than bottled water and significantly less that the level of concern. So why is our land showing up on your map? We also used to do deep soil samples (4') for nitrate, and about 10 years ago stopped because the test always came back almost absent. I understand that the goal is prevention, but we are seeing less of a concern because of modern farming practices. On our farm we do annual soil samples, and about 60% of our acres get zone applied which means that we test areas of the field that are more productive and can hold more N will get a high rate then a zone that is opposite. We also use GPS section control to insure that we have no overlap (double rate). We fall apply anhydrous ammonia for all of our Nitrogen needs which is a much better choice in the fall. Fall application is critical in our cropping system up here in northern MN. It is impractical to spring apply due to our climate and planting time frame. We are well educated on the risk of losing our N and understand and manage that risk. Nitrogen and all farming inputs are costly and we cannot afford to have our inputs go anywhere but into the crop. I also feel that the vast majority of farmers in this area all highly educated, on the cutting edge of technology, and practice proper nitrogen management.

In Summary I feel both part 1 and part 2 are unnecessary in our area, we are already managing our land with the best technology, continue to innovate and improve practices, follow University recommendations, farm sustainably, and above all else we cherish our precious land and water that we live on, and proudly feed your family and the rest of the world.

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