From: Greg Schwarz
To: Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Subject: Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Comments
Date: Thursday, August 24, 2017 10:30:05 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.

One section of land where I own and operate approximately 80 acres is split virtually and visually in half. The western half is vulnerable according to your proposed rule. The eastern half, where the farm ground is located, is not vulnerable. It seems excessive to limit farming practices on the highly productive land just because the western half of the section is vulnerable. This is section 6 of Sharon Township in Le Sueur County.

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.

Sincerely,

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