From:	jatd@tvutel.com
To:	Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Cc:	rep.steve.green@house.mn
Subject:	Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule
Date:	Wednesday, August 23, 2017 4:27:33 PM

RE: Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule

Would you sign a blank check and give it to a stranger? We went to the hearing at Hawley. There are 1790 townships in Minnesota. You say that you hope to test wells in 300 townships by 2019 .The only ones listed were townships you have already tested. Who are the other townships? How can you possibly write a rule ,one rule fits all, based on the few wells that you have tested at the time of the hearing in Hawley?

At the hearing you replied to a question, if this nitrate testing would lead to anything else. And the answer was no, yet your own handouts states different. If a persons' wells nitrate test detects nitrate the homeowner is offered a followup test for nitrate and also a pesticide test. Who is going to set the level of nitrate that is acceptable and is the homeowner just being offered a followup test or will they be required to have a new nitrate test and a pesticide test under the rule being written?

When you change the map you presented,the one that you admitted was incorrect , will landowners be able to express their approval or disapproval.

When a new well is drilled ,the water from the new well is tested.The results are sent to the Department of Health. We didn't hear any statistic from the Dept of Health of the wells that were rejected because of contamination. When a mortgage underwriters require well testing, how many wells failed? Several farmers at the Hawley hearing mentioned that they have the water coming from their tiling systems tested regularly. Farm groups have provided the funds for water testing and gather the information from these test. Will data from sources other then your testing be used in looking at nitrogen use on farm land?

There was not a economic impact statement on the cost of this rule on tax payers and landowners.Restricting application of nitrogen fertilizer in the fall on agricultural lands what else will this rule deal with. We were very impressed with the quality of testimony from the farmers at the Hawley meeting. Farmers know their land and know the cost of planting and harvesting a crop . They know that over spending in planting their crops is not a wise economically and not cost effective. They do a multitude of things such as soil testing, plant tissue testing etc to effectively apply fertilizer. Dealing with a department such as the Department of Agriculture without an oversight mechanism that would prevent abuse of power in implementing such a rule to protect landowners.

We agree with Minnesota Agri-Women request that the Department of

Agriculture delay implementation of this rule until facts are known by using sound scientific methods and if there even is a nitrate problem in northern Minnesota. And if regulations will solve a problem if one exists. Also other factors that would contributed to water quality such as lawn chemicals,decaying organic matter.

Sincerely,

Jerome and Ann Schoenborn
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cc:State Senator Paul Utke