
Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Mary Sahl, I live at 6955 County Road 81, Wahpeton, North Dakota. I will be living near the proposed Abercrombie Dairy in Richland County in Southeast North Dakota.

I am in opposition of this bill because water is our most precious resource, and this bill appears to be promising unlimited and unregulated amounts of water to the proposed Riverview Dairy.

My husband and I have gone to the local Richland Water Board after a recent meeting held there for water permitting for the dairy from the Red River. We were told the Red River needs to be at a 53 year event level for them to be able to draw water from the Red River. It has not been at that level for many years now due to the drought in our area the past four years and beyond. We were told they would have to pump water uphill and this was basically impossible to do. Yet they have applied for a permit to draw water from the Red River. Historically, reports from other Minnesota locations reveal that Riverview will have multiple well site locations, and since they are not required to tell us where or how much water they are extracting from the earth, they could solely rely on the glacial aquifer, and use other sites as a smoke screen in order to obtain the water permit. In essence, they simply do not have enough water to sustain this dairy.

We understand they are trying next to get allocations from Wahpeton, North Dakota. We are opposed to this because this would limit the potential expansion of the city of Wahpeton from future development. In essence, our state is not set up to regulate industrial agriculture or the withdrawal of 130 million gallons of water per year from a glacial aquifer.

I'm not certain as to the changes in purpose of use wording in your proposed bill, but I conclude that will be to benefit Riverview Dairy, so I

oppose it on the basis that Riverview go through the normal processes anyone would have to go through to reapply for water allocations.

Our biggest fear is that our well and 24 other neighbor's wells will go dry, more than 50% are under 50 feet deep. There is no provision in their permit to replace local wells that go dry. This would adversely affect the rights of local citizens and negatively affect the local communities as well. Please take time to understand the impact of massive water depletion from the state of Arizona where Riverview has many barns and cows. The state has now had to impose regulations for water usage and declared several areas to be under a management plan for future water allocations. You can e-mail Dennis Troutman at dt troutman@azwater.gov for further information.

We simply feel you should not give pass to our most precious resource. It is not a resource that can be replenished. We cannot conduct our lives or sustain our farms without water. Nothing exists without water, nothing.

Thank you for your time.