

Mr. Stark:

Good morning.

I am testifying to help promote clean water and want to actually increase livestock production of dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, poultry, goats, sheep, fish, and other livestock with a continual partnership in handling the waste to protect and improve our water quality. Livestock and humans need clean water and the improvements over the past decades has led to cleaner water on my family farm and throughout Minnesota.

I have seen in my years in Goodhue County improvements in the water quality from the small cities to the farms. We have built septic systems on all rural homesteads to handle our waste safely and the rural communities are discharging clear water compared to the 1960s when raw sewage would be dumped in our streams. These improvements have resulted in clean water on my farm, which has Trout Brook flowing through it with fish, ducks, geese, birds, and healthy grasses along it compared to dirty water in the past.

In summary, my goal with this testimony is to report the real water quality improvements I have personally and professionally seen during the past 40 years in the dairy industry. We are on a good path and I wish it to continue for safe water levels for people and animals. Furthermore, I actually encourage an increase in livestock production in Minnesota, a value added industry with total receipts of 264 billion dollars. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding water quality.

Best regards,

Roger Kittelson

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Goodhue Minnesota.