

E-mail Received October 3, 2023

Subject: Farmers are the best at Conservation

To the Chairs and members of the Water Policy Subcommittee,

Good morning!

I hear you have a hearing this morning regarding an emergency petition put forth by a number of environmental groups. Their concern seems to revolve around nitrates in the water supply. Something farmers and local groups have been following closely.

My concern is the proposed solution is to give control and power over to the federal government. **Farmers are amazing conservationists!** It is in their best interest to leave the area better off for their posterity. They have a vested interest in the success and sustainability of the land. I question what kind of interest does an out of state group have?

**Keep Local Control for Local Issues! This is not a Federal problem!**

It seems to me that both parties want clean drinking water. So leave that regulatory power with those with local vested interests. the local groups are doing a fine job! They know the area, what works, what doesn't. is outsourcing issues to the Feds really a president our State wants to set?

**Where is input from local farmers?**

This is an issue that affects the lives and livelihoods of farmers across SE Minnesota and all of Minnesota really.

In the line up of testifiers for today's meeting I do not see farmers represented or consulted. Would this committee really vote on such assistive issue without first hearing feedback from the people your vote would effect the most!?! Was there a town hall meeting related to this issue? how was the word spread of this upcoming change to regulatory controllee? Or will the farmers only find out after all is said and done?

**A discussion of this magnitude is too soon with too little input from those it most effects!**

There are a number of environmental agencies who put for this resolution. What have they done to work with locals before wanting to go to the federal level. Locals know the land and its history. they have a vested interest in maintaining a healthy balance for all! when we look to those out of area and out of state to regulate; they do not have to live with the decisions being made so it is much easier to let personal agendas interfere.

Those living in the area know what is best for their area. Please keep local control!

-Sara B-

Pine Island, MN