



**DEVELOPMENT
SOLUTIONS**

March 11, 2024

Minnesota Senate Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee
Attn: Honorable Aric Putnam, Chair
3215 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Putnam –

I am writing to you today in opposition of Senate File 4234, and the mandatory Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) it includes for all animal feedlots over 10,000 Animal Units (AU). Prior to joining A1 Development Solutions as a Development Consultant, I utilized my leadership and experience in the dairy processing industry for over 40 years in companies including Land O'Lakes, Valley Queen, Tetra Pak/CPS Scherping, Green Meadows/Trega Foods and Agropur.

Regulations like those included in Senate File 4234, deter value-added agricultural expansion. While I certainly support environmental initiatives, I stand fast in the belief that the standard to which today's livestock facilities are constructed and operated, have minimal environmental effects in comparison to other industries. This file demolishes the regulatory framework that you've put in place, i.e. Environmental Assessments Worksheets, which are a requirement for any feedlot over 1,000 AU, and negatively impacts timelines and costs with additional layers of unnecessary review.

When Agriculture is looking to expand its value-add, where is it looking? I can tell you where. The industry is looking to the Upper Midwest. There is an increased demand for milk processing in our region, and the I-29 Corridor is considered the "hot spot" for potential – right across your western border. In 2022, the average US milk processing plant consumed 93.8M pounds of milk. Assuming 2,000 gallons per year per cow (10-month milking period), there will be an additional demand of ~55,000 cows in production, not including replacement heifers, etc. The annual economic impact of a single dairy cow is \$25,495.00. Just the cows that will be in production will produce over \$1.4 billion of economic impact annually. I can assure you, that the regulations proposed in this file, will diminish Minnesota's opportunity to capture some of the rewards of a new regional milk processing facility.

Thank you for your time, and for considering my comments.

Respectfully Submitted –

Tim Czmowski, Development Consultant