

3/11/2024

Steven Landwehr
United Dairies LLP
14579 170th St. Watkins, MN 55389

Kara Josephson
MN Senate

To whom it concerns:

We are dairy farmers, like many others nationwide, looking for additional opportunities to provide nutritious dairy products from our farm to serve local markets. Our farms ship milk to a number of processors that accept farms of all sizes, but ultimately most processors have trouble expecting steady growth from smaller farms to keep up with demand, and therefore turn to farms like ours for a larger portion of their processing production. We operate farms in several states as part of our management group and are headquartered in Minnesota, but are very concerned about SF 4234.

As we look to continue to meet the needs of dairy processors, we weigh out needs to the local farm community, the workforce, and of course, the economics of the particular site. Generally speaking, sites we build going forward would be above, or plan to expand into, the requirements in SF 4234. However, if implemented it would simply cause us to make plans in other states because the cost would be so high that Minnesota would no longer be considered. We do not believe SF 4234 provides any additional environmental or useful comment periods that will be beneficial to us or general public since there are already several in the extensive environmental review process in Minnesota. We are one of only five states with environmental review, and our current environmental assessment worksheet covers far more than most other states as we understand.

Please vote against the bill. This bill will not slow down the construction or production of dairy farms in the United States, it will only stop them in Minnesota. Processing will then be built at our borders along with the farms that come with it. This becomes a shared lost opportunity for the farm families, the cooperatives or processors for the products to be produced, and most importantly the jobs that are created or saved for the communities of Minnesota. Alternatives could be a streamlined EAW, but really we believe the system provides everything environmentally needed for current and future permitting. The thought of adopting a much more expensive and time-consuming EIS, which will provide little to no added securities, will

create more beneficiaries for consulting and engineering companies. Alternatively, Minnesota may miss out on this once in a generation expansion of processing in the dairy industry if the law is implemented.

Thank you for considering this letter.

Steven Landwehr
Managing Partner
United Dairies LLP