

December 5, 2016

To those on the Brookings County Planning and Zoning Commission-

I'm writing a letter to show my support of both the variance application and application for conditional use to build a Class A Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation that Michael Crinion has submitted on behalf of Killeskillen LLC to the Brookings County Planning and Zoning Commission. I am trained in animal husbandry and management, and I have a Ph.D. in Dairy Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I moved to South Dakota in April 2014 for the primary reason of working in the dairy industry, which was healthy, growing and sustainable. I was proud to move to South Dakota because I felt the state embraced production agriculture in a positive manner. Brookings County has had tremendous economic development, and a good deal of the boost to the economy has been because of the dairy industry.

Regarding the variance application, it is obvious to me that the well is an old abandoned well that is not in use, and likely hasn't been used in quite a while. Under these circumstances, I'm in favor of granting the requested variance of 1240 feet from the distance stated in the Brookings County Zoning Ordinance. In addition, this abandoned well should be filled in with cement (or fill) and capped off, so that a young child doesn't fall into it by accident.

I am also in support of the application for a conditional use to build a Class A Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation for 5500 animal units of dairy cattle. Those at the state level have said that the state needs more dairy cows and that added dairy cows will continue to boost the local economies in South Dakota. Economic analyses conducted in Minnesota and Wisconsin have shown that each cow contributes over \$10,000 to the local economy each year (Minnesota was \$11,761 and Wisconsin was \$13,737). Many people in the community benefit from this economic impact from the farm to the table. South Dakota is an ideal location because of the presence of feed (corn, soybeans, alfalfa and ethanol co-products), the weather conditions, the local expertise of those in area, and the available capacity at the processing cooperatives.

There may be some nay-sayers that will use the "Not in my backyard!" argument. If everyone succeeded in stopping various projects, it would negatively impact our county, state and country economically, socially and environmentally. I encourage you to look beyond this argument and do what's best for those in Brookings county.

Sincerely,
Robin R. Rastani

Robin R. Rastani, Ph.D., Dipl. ACAN
Dairy Cow Nutritionist