



JULIE LASSA

STATE SENATOR

September 24, 2012

Cathy Stepp
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Stepp,

As you know, the public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement for the high capacity well permits for the proposed Wysocki Produce Farms concentrated animal feeding operation in the Town of Saratoga in Wood County concluded Friday. Many of my constituents contributed their input in this process, and have shared their perspectives with me. Based on the potential damage this project threatens for local groundwater resources, and the overwhelming opposition to this project from the town board and the people of Saratoga, I write to urge that the permits be denied.

The Wysocki CAFO would be an estimated 3,500-cow, 6,000-acre operation involving the installation of 49 new high capacity wells in an area in which agricultural groundwater use is already very intensive. The impact an operation of this size could have on groundwater levels and quality is potentially devastating. Local surface waters, which have already been challenged by drought conditions, may well lower to the point where they cannot sustain their current fish and wildlife habitats. Residents may have to re-drill their home wells, and water supplies for existing farming operations in the area may be compromised. Experience with CAFOs in Minnesota and elsewhere in Wisconsin suggests that groundwater contamination by manure holding facilities, resulting in high levels of toxins such as nitrates and hydrogen sulfide in the drinking water, is a real possibility.

Because of its geology and the intensive use of groundwater resources in Wood County, this area is one of the most environmentally sensitive in the state. This is why the overwhelming majority of people in Saratoga are opposed to this CAFO. I request that the voices of my constituents be heard, and that the well permits for this operation be denied.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Julie Lassa'.

JULIE LASSA
State Senator
24th Senate District