

January 16, 2012

Illinois Pollution Control Board  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P.O. Box 19274  
Springfield, Illinois

PC# 25

RE: In the Matter of CAFOs: Proposed Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm.  
Code Parts 501, 502, and 504 (R-2012-023)

Dear Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

As a former Jo Daviess County resident and huge supporter of the "family farm" I am writing this letter to strongly urge your agency to strengthen regulations concerning large CAFO's both residing in and attempting to build facilities in Illinois.

In my opinion, I witnessed firsthand the lies, deceit, and collusion between the Illinois Department of Agriculture and "big ag" at every level of our Illinois government with the illegal siting and construction of the "Bos Traditions Dairy." The Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA), the supposed "holy grail" of regulations concerning building of large CAFO-type facilities, is an outdated document that might have had good intentions in the 1990s, but is never followed when it comes to protecting the environment from these large factory farms. Only minimal criteria are ever met and the CAFOs are still sited.

With that being said, the Illinois EPA is the only protection from huge amounts of waste that always lead to ground or surface water pollution. No unregulated, or for that matter, regulated CAFO, can handle the tremendous amount of wastewater and animal waste without some sort of discharge. All CAFOs of any size need to be registered with the state as to their location, waste management plan, and discharge permit. These CAFOs are not traditional farms; they are factories and should be regulated as such. CAFOs operate on the "greed not need" principle and target the States that have the most free water, cheap feed, and most importantly, the least regulations.

Illinois people must be protected from the seizure of their life, surroundings and property, and from air and water pollution. Towns die and people move away, if they can, from these unregulated factory farms that produced as much waste daily as a small city, and then throw it into an open pit.

It's time for the Pollution Control Board to hold the Illinois EPA to the grindstone by giving them stronger, enforceable regulations with consequences. Do your job! Save Illinois' future generations water and air by reducing pollution now!

Tom Bergstrom  
Stephenson County