

PC# 3029

**Therriault, John**

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**From:** Beverly Braniff <wi\_bevie@mtcnw.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 3:46 PM ✓  
**To:** Therriault, John  
**Subject:** "Public comment on proposed CAFO Rules - R2012-023"

There are many ways that CAFOs impact our citizens, but the one that most affects us all is the faulty handling of waste, resulting in a pollution of our waterways. When these spills occur--and it is inevitable that they will--the thousands of gallons of waste dumped in our streams and rivers contains more than just animal fecal matter.

Included are pathogens, growth hormones, and antibiotics. The proposed South Morgan Acres CAFO which got state approval but has not been built, was located on the brow of a hill over a large creek which feeds directly into the Lamoine River. Given that the Lamoine is the sixth largest river in Illinois, those impacts are felt all over our state.

If a CAFO were a factory or housing, it would be required by law to process its waste. We upgraded our own septic tank a year or so ago and we were very careful to make sure that our waste was handled properly.

The law requires it, and I am happy that it does. I can understand why a CAFO does not want to behave as responsibly as its neighbors who process their waste--it would cost them a fortune. Well, our septic system cost us a fortune, too, and I was happy to pay it knowing that we are behaving responsibly. The handling of waste by a CAFO is an opportunity for a spill, the application of waste on farm ground is another opportunity for a spill, and cracks and leaks in the underground storage is yet another opportunity for raw waste to find its way into our waters.

CAFO operators are permitted by the state to operate on the "Oops System"--when a spill occurs they are to report it. Really? A minimum wage worker is supposed to report to his corporate operator, who was hired by out of state owners that a spill occurred. Does this seem like a good system? At the very least, if we are to have CAFOs at all, they must be inspected on a regular and unscheduled basis with very serious fines for non-compliance. We owe our citizens that much.

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