

Official statement from Sara Byl, Laketown Family Farmer, Co-Owner of Northernview Farms:

*I want it known that I do not support the "The Town of Laketown, Polk County, Wisconsin Moratorium on Livestock Facility Licensing Committee Report," as it represents the voice and agenda of one committee member, with little consideration given to any alternative opinions or ideas. It became clear, early on in this process, that if I didn't agree with the anti-CAFO rhetoric, I would be berated. The discussions from our 13 committee meetings are not fairly portrayed in this document. One example is the fact that our committee spent three hours on November 4th at Minglewood Dairy, learning about CAFO permitting, management practices, specific environmental stewardship actions, etc, and the only mention in the report can be found on the bottom of page 33, following the sections about China and immigrant labor. It reads, "The committee interviewed a Polk County dairy CAFO with 1,500 cows that is operated by four family members and about two dozen immigrants."*

*Meanwhile, any suggestion or discussion pertaining to starting a local watershed citizen group, including information from the REI/study of Trade Lake, helping increase the number of acres of nutrient management plan compliance, implementation and utilization of current laws, legal siting options, using reputable sources for information, etc...was met with instant disregard by the author. There is a difference between honest intentions of collaborating for real solutions and having one clear agenda...to ban CAFOs.*

*I am driven every day by my passion for protecting my family's legacy and future. And as a family farmer and advocate for agriculture, this one-sided report is little more than a compilation of activist propaganda and cherry-picked Google search information. Supporting agriculture and our local farmers means more than supporting only the type of agriculture that you personally approve of.*