

25 April 2022

To The Iowa Department of Natural Resources:

I am asking the Iowa Department of Natural Resources **NOT** to renew the water use permit for Supreme Beef.

As a 25+ year veteran of the Iowa tourism industry, I can assure you northeast Iowa and its plethora of outdoor recreational opportunities and unique environment is one of the state's strongest selling points.

In fact, the summer 2021 issue of the Iowa DNR's beautiful publication Iowa Outdoors touted the counties of NE Iowa (where Supreme Beef is located) and the unequaled beauty, trout fishing and recreational waterways found there. In fact, the article contains a photo showing a DNR fishery staff member, stocking trout with an explanation how the staff works to not only "manage, raise and stock Iowa's trout, **but to create habitat, improve water quality** and add angler access points" to trout streams.

However, these amenities and the significant economic impact they provide to northeast Iowa and the state as a whole are at risk if this water use permit is approved.

"The problem isn't the enterprise, but it is the wrong place for the enterprise", stated Gene Tinker, former director of Iowa's livestock regulation division for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), explained during the state-wide broadcast of a virtual town hall meeting on June 29, 2021. The meeting and discussion centered on the Supreme Beef cattle feeding operation in Clayton County and its controversial nutrient management plan which was approved by the Iowa DNR despite its many deficiencies in data.

Mr. Tinker is correct. The entire operation jeopardizes this environmentally sensitive area as it sits atop extremely porous karst limestone, known for its ability to rapidly percolate water to aquifers below. It is also in the watershed of Bloody Run Creek which is designated as an Outstanding Iowa Waterway and top cold water trout stream.

Iowa, its tourism industry's livelihood - not to mention all of the Iowan's living downstream - can ill afford the damage caused by a leak or spill at this facility designed to house 11,600 cattle, store 39 million gallons of manure in its lagoon, and apply the manure to surrounding fields. The entire region can ill afford the monumental use of water (estimated at minimum 6 gallons per day per animal housed x 365 days would equal 25,494,000 gallons of water used annually), risking quality or quantity of water and adversely affecting public health and welfare.

The Iowa DNR cannot, on one hand, be a 'champion' of our natural resources and encourage their use by Iowans and visitors alike, while on the other support the faulty nutrient management plan and overreaching water permit of an enormous cattle feeding operation in this critical watershed.

I close by stating again, I urge the Iowa DNR **NOT** to renew the water permit for Supreme Beef.

Sincerely,

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