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34115 Co. Hwy. 74
 Battle Lake, MN 56515

Red River Valley Water Supply Project
 P.O. Box 1017
 Bismarck, ND 58502-1017

Greetings:

I am addressing this letter in regards to your proposal for Otter Tail County water.

Otter Tail County and the State of Minnesota are trying very hard to improve the quality and quantity of water both on the surface and in its aquifers. I understand your wishes and need of our resource. I hope you understand our position to keep our resource for Otter Tail residents.

The demographics of Otter Tail County shows that the county is growing at a rate of about 12-15%. We only have about 5-10% of our lakes that have not been developed. Water attracts tourism and that is a strong segment of our economy. Agriculture still ranks number one in the county and water for irrigation much assures a bountiful crop.. As the county grows in manufacturing and processing so does its need for water. When looking at the future use of water in Otter Tail County, we cannot afford to relinquish water rights.

We are looking at this matter in a realistic way and cannot for the future of our county support you plans.

Sincerely,



Charles Erickson
 Otter Tail County Farm Bureau