

July 29, 2019

**BY Email**

Zoning Board, % Assessor  
handcounty@midconetwork.com  
assessor.handcoem@midconetwork.com

**Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to the proposed Conditional Use Permit for a swine production facility by Ratio, LLC (Kirk Augenbaugh) located in the NE1/4 & NW1/4 section 32-111-67 (Pearl Township).**

Dear Hand County Commissioners:

I am writing to you in opposition of the proposed Conditional Use Permit for a swine production facility by Ratio, LLC (Kirk Augenbaugh) located in the NE1/4 & NW1/4 section 32-111-67 (Pearl Township).

4. *All such entities must submit nutrient management plans assuring offensive odors and runoff minimization. Such management plans must, at a minimum, include*
1. *Proposed maintenance plans for animal waste facilities.*
  2. *Nutrient transportation equipment miniaturous plans.*
  3. *Planned land application processes and / or methods.*
  4. *A full and complete legal description and map depicting areas to be utilized for nutrient application.*


My family and I live northwest of this proposed facility site, which means every time there is a wind out of the southeast, our property will be inundated with the smell of hogs. When we decided to make rural Hand County our family's permanent home, we selected the location based on our ability to enjoy the land and outdoor lifestyle. We have plans to invest more money within the close proximity that will include a new home and additional business opportunities to serve this community as well. This will cease if this swine production facility location is approved.

It is no secret that hog facilities smell. For this very reason, unlike other agricultural opportunities one could do with their rural properties, hog facilities impact neighbors. This is acceptable if the neighbors are all in agreement as to the proposed presence of the hog facility. As I review the list of opposing neighbors, it is clear that this proposed hog facility is unwanted, and its presence is not agreeable. I stand in agreement with this sentiment, as the proposed facility site will negatively impact our community by: decreasing property values; affect the safety of our roads (which are already extremely difficult to maintain); deter future business

ventures; and harm my family's way of life. Furthermore, in the event this highly contested permit is granted, the county is in effect entering into a partnership with this entity for future litigation purposes. These are all negative factors which impact our county's ability to thrive, produce family farmers, and maintain its population. For these reasons, I respectfully request that the commissioners deny this permit.

Additionally, I would encourage the commissioners to consider SDCL 47-9A-13.2. The primary goal, public policy, and legislative intent behind anti-corporate farming laws is to protect the economic viability of family farms in light of the threats from competition with corporate-owned or corporate-managed farms. This swine facility is certainly not a locally owned or operated family farm operation. With that reality in mind, I hate to see the county start to allow foreign (non-family owned) corporate entities in to take over our county. This becomes a slippery slope, and I just do not believe the commissioners should open the proverbial litigative floodgates against the rights of their fellow neighbors by granting this permit. Thank you for taking the time to consider my letter.

Respectfully Submitted,

By   
Clay A. Anderson, Rural Resident Hand County  
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