



July 20, 2022

Willard Moeri  
Roberts Village President  
107 E. Maple St.  
Roberts, WI 54023

Dear Mr. Moeri,

I am writing on behalf of the Dairy Business Association to urge the Roberts Planning Commission to approve the Roberts Nature Energy biogas project. This project presents an important opportunity for the intersection of agriculture and renewable energy technologies that will benefit both the environment and farming economy in St. Croix County and set an example for others areas of Wisconsin.

St. Croix County is growing faster than most in our state. The proximity to well-paying jobs in the Twin Cities along with the county's rural character make this an attractive area to live. Fortunately, the county does not have to choose between supporting new development and its longstanding dairy and agricultural heritage and farm families, which continue to support local businesses. St. Croix County can have both.

Just like any business or industry, agriculture must evolve. Farmers want to produce nutritious food while being mindful of the greater community's interests and needs. Technological advancements over the years have allowed dairy in particular and agriculture in general to do just that.

The Roberts Nature Energy project would be a prime example. Manure is an important part of the natural farming cycle by fertilizing crops that are grown to feed the animals. The Nature Energy technology would transform this already valuable manure into an even more effective nutrient that would be more easily taken up by the crops and have a lower application rate. This would reduce the risk of runoff and leaching into surface and ground water. Other benefits at the farm level would be less odor, fewer greenhouse gas emissions and less fossil fuel use.

The Roberts Nature Energy biogas project is an opportunity to safeguard the natural resources in St. Croix County while giving livestock farmers a more effective way to manage manure. We all want clean air, land and water, and we should all want a healthy farming economy. These goals are not mutually exclusive.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter of support for the Roberts Nature Energy biogas project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Penterman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Penterman" clearly legible.

Amy Penterman  
President, Dairy Business Association