

## Elkader Public Hearing September 1, 2009

**Al Schafbuch:** My name is Al Schafbuch, I farm out by the Dysart, Iowa. I do appreciate the changes that were made since the last time, it's made it a little more workable. I think we need to be more of this because we don't want it to be so inflexible that we cannot keep the economic development in Iowa going. I wrote as a no till farmer in Benton County, I'm concerned about the quality of Iowa water, the proposed list of Tier 2.5 Waters in which new sources of discharge will be prohibited, most are in Northeast Iowa, but these are streams and lakes can be found in many parts of the state. These water bodies have not been reviewed to determine if they meet the scientific standards that requires the 2.5 rule. Further, the Clean Water Act and EPA does not require Iowa to designate waters in a Tier 2.5. Cities, farms and business will not be allowed to increase discharges in these waters. This will make the infrastructure distorted and economic growth more expensive and uncompetitive. Please consider removing the 2.5, Tier 2.5 from the Antidegradation Water Quality Standards. Agricultural, stormwater discharges and Ag irrigation return flows are exempt from the federal prorated requirement and should be specifically exempted from this Antidegradation malices. Also, the term community for the purposes of determining social and economic importance in the rule of business is underdefined in the rule. Small rural businesses will rarely be able to meet the test if a community is defined as a large area and if the bar for social and economic importance is set high. Even the farm that only employs the family should be considered socially economically important. The rule should state that a small rural business, including farms are socially and economically important to the community if it provides an income or is an intrical part of the business that provides income to even one person. I am...to hear that water quality standards will stop most of the economic development in Iowa. And I'm hoping that with the rules that you changed a little bit, that won't happen.

**Robert Ritscher:** My name is Robert Ritscher, I'm from Benton County, I'm on the NRCS board and a farmer. My comment is that, if our goal is clean water, the part where we should be looking at is education. And education in some ways would do more than the regulation, it's more benign. We have the possibility of closing a lot of industries down but not necessarily the ones we close we down, but the ones that never get built. And we don't see those that don't get built. From an economic standpoint, we're going to have to look at that also. Thank you.