

Water is being used and abused. It's a finite resource and the source of all life on this planet. Who's paying attention? Costco's proposed chicken processing plant would be installed near Fremont upriver from the water supply of Lincoln and Omaha. Experts who are paying attention warn us of the possible serious health, economic, and environmental consequences if we don't slow down the building of this plant. The people involved in the decision-making regarding the plant are ill-informed since the information on which to base a decision is simply not available. The laws in place to protect the water are vague and full of loopholes.

No one knows how the nitrogen from the proposed 17 million chickens from 400 barns will affect the environment or the health of the ecosystem, including our own health. Chicken waste is loaded with nitrogen and with 350,000 chickens being slaughtered daily, that's a lot of nitrogen. Health problems such as blue baby syndrome, cancers, and various neurological diseases have been linked to excess nitrogen. A denitrification plant was installed in Des Moines to address this very issue in Iowa's soils at a huge expense, but there is no good way to "dispose" of all that nitrogen once it's removed from the water. Economic consequences include the denitrification plant which would be passed on to ratepayers, the cost

to our economy of no longer having clean affordable water, health expenses associated with polluted water are likely to rise, and no one knows what kind of impact the plant would have on land and food production.

Those of us who care need to become informed and take action.

Here's what you can do:

1. Call Mayor Jean Stothert and City Council members and urge them to insist on an environmental impact statement (EIS) that tells us if & when the water will be contaminated with the development of the Costco project. 402-444-5555 or hotline@cityofomaha.org
2. Contact the Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) to express your concerns. Ask them to actively advocate that this plant not be built until there is an EIS to protect the water from the Costco project. 402.554.6666 or customer_service@mudnebr.com
3. Call your representative at the legislature and ask that he/she support LR4 by Sen. Blood. This resolution is for a study of Nebraska's water quality. Encourage your representative to introduce other measures and support any bills or resolutions aimed at carefully examining and regulating the Costco plant. We need a plan to keep our water safe. The number for the Capitol is 402-471-0448 or http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php

4. Call the Natural Resource Districts in our area and ask for their support of LR4 as well as their advocacy of clean water. Request them to insist on an EIS before the Costco project is installed. Papiou Missouri NRD, John Winkler, General Manager, 402-444-6222

5. Call the NDEQ and ask that they develop an EIS to clarify the current state of our water and how it will be protected, and that they actively advocate that this plant not be built until there an EIS is complete. Currently, public notices for permits can be viewed here: <http://deq.ne.gov/Press.nsf/PNall.xsp>. You can ask the NDEQ to create a public notification protocol for water quality like they have for air quality. 402-471-4223

6. Call Gov. Ricketts and ask that he work to restore the 18% budget cut to NDEQ and that he insist on an EIS to ensure our water is protected before the Costco plant is installed. He should be leading our fight to preserve the clean water in the state of Nebraska.
402-471-2244

7. Please let us know about your communications with these agencies! Your feedback is immensely helpful to us in creating a successful campaign.

THANK YOU for caring enough to take action!!!