

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Laura Friend](#)
Subject: Rebuttal letter Re: Application RA22026
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2023 1:53:32 PM

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To Laura Friend, NRCB

Re: Application RA22026 by Rimrock Cattle Company Ltd.
Middle of section 28-29-25 W4M

I reside on SE 30-29-24 W4M and own NE 30-29-24 W4M, SE 31 29-24 W4M, SW & SE 32-29-24 W4M, NW & SW 29-29-24 W4M.

I am aware that Rimrock Cattle Co. (formally Korova Feeders) was denied their request to increase the capacity of their feedlot and has now appealed that decision and will go before the NRCB. I would once again like to express my opposition to the application by Rimrock Cattle Company Ltd. to increase the number of permitted livestock from 14,000 head total to 28,000 head total.

My concern is the increased need for water that will double from the current requirement needed by this feedlot. I know this feedlot currently has a water license to draw water from the Kneehill Creek. The Kneehill creek passes through my property and we hold a historical water use registration on it for our ranching operation. They (Rimrock) have already been known to draw water when the flow is too low and outside of the limits of their license boundaries. In 2021 following a very dry winter with virtually no snowmelt or runoff, this operation demonstrated a disregard for the environment and a disrespect for neighboring farms and ranches by pumping water at a very inappropriate time. They pumped during a period of very low water flow combined with hot temperatures and were not in compliance with their water license. During that pumping event the Kneehill Creek where it travels through my property downstream from their water inlet turned green from an algae bloom that I had never witnessed before nor had anyone from our family ever spoken about in the past. Our ranch has been in this family since 1951. This was obviously detrimental to the biology that lives within this creek ecosystem and of course is detrimental to the health of my cattle and our right to use water from this stream for our cattle operation. If historical water registrations have any meaning Rimrock should not have even been allowed to start their pumps that spring. I have attached 2 photographs taken July 3, 2021 following Rimrock's removal of water from the Kneehill creek showing the extreme low flow for this time of year, the green color of the water and in one picture a dead fish.

I also have a concern for groundwater. It is common understanding within our community that the applicant has stated to community members that their wells no longer produce water at the same levels as when they were drilled. Of course that's what lead them to apply to take surface water for their needs. We are all being made aware of the effects of climate change and the predictions of more frequent and harsher droughts. It seems foolhardy to me that an increase in livestock numbers in a concentrated area with limited water availability would even be desired by this company. These two issues of groundwater depletion and water shed protection while

assuring producers who have first right to surface water should be a common sense decision to deny a further increase in capacity at this feedlot.

Please understand that I am not opposed to feedlots and cattle feeding, I too am a cattleman and understand the need for them. However I believe as the governing body of approval your first responsibility is to make decisions for the protection of our natural resources and to conserve them for all Albertans.

I believe there are negative consequences for ground water and the Kneehill creek watershed and environment if this application to increase cattle numbers is approved and trust that the NRCB will not overturn the denial of this application.

Sincerely,

Jim Bauer,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.