

Credit River Capital Investment Testimony

Chairs Franson & Lee, members of the committee,

My name is Chris Kostik, Mayor of the City of Credit River. With me today is our City Administrator, Steve Jelinski.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of our request for \$12.8 million to extend municipal sewer and water to the Country Court neighborhood.

Let me start with the problem.

Country Court is a neighborhood of 99 homes built in the 1960s and 1970s on small lots, each served by private wells and septic systems.

Today, most of those septic systems are over 30 years old. Many are already failing—and many more are nearing failure.

Because of the lot sizes, there is often no room to replace them.

That puts homeowners at risk of losing habitability, and it creates a barrier for buyers—because homes with failing septic systems may not qualify for traditional mortgage financing.

THIS IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE.

Please take a look at handout that was given to you. I'll be referring to the graphic on the top right of the page.

What you're seeing in RED are systems already failing.

The YELLOW dots represent aging systems nearing the end of their life.

This creates real risk to groundwater, drinking water, and the surrounding environment.

THIS IS ALSO A HOUSING STORY.

These 99 homes are naturally occurring workforce housing.

Without this project, we risk losing those homes—not because of demand, but because of failing infrastructure.

THIS IS A KEYSTONE INVESTMENT.

It unlocks:

- Service to 400 additional homes
- And land for 400+ future workforce housing units

THIS IS PLANNED GROWTH IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

The area is already in the Metropolitan Council’s Urban Service Area and identified in our Comprehensive Plan.

We are not asking for speculative expansion—we are asking to fix a known problem.

With that, I’ll turn it over to our City Administrator, Steve Jelinski.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR – Steve Jelinski (~1:15)

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Chair and Committee members,

Steve Jelinski, City Administrator for Credit River.

THIS IS A \$13 MILLION PROJECT.

The City will:

- Specially assess the 99 benefiting properties
- Contribute locally

However, due to modest home values, those assessments cannot support the full cost.

STATE BONDING SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL TO CLOSE THE GAP.

THIS PROJECT IS READY.

- Planned for decades
- Included in our Comprehensive Plan
- Infrastructure is now within reach

We are ready to move forward.

WITHOUT STATE PARTICIPATION, THE ALTERNATIVES ARE NOT VIABLE:

- Assessments become unaffordable
- Or the project is delayed

And delay means more failures, higher costs, and greater risk.

IN CLOSING:

This project protects public health, preserves workforce housing, and enables future housing in a planned growth area.

We respectfully ask for your support. Thank you.