



"Building our Future, While Preserving the Past"

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February 3, 2025

Representative Mary Franson
Chair, Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee
Centennial Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for House File 972 – Lakewood Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

Dear Chair Franson and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee:

On behalf of the City of Rice Lake, I am writing to express our strong support for House File 972, co-authored by Representatives Kozlowski, Zeleznikar, and Johnson, which seeks critical capital investment for necessary upgrades to the Lakewood Water Treatment Plant in Duluth, MN.

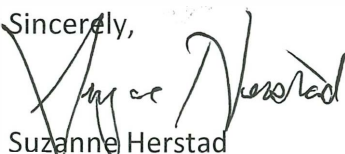
The Lakewood Water Treatment Plant plays a vital role in providing safe and reliable drinking water not only to Duluth but also to the neighboring communities of Hermantown, Rice Lake, and Proctor. As a recipient community, Rice Lake understands the importance of ensuring that this facility remains operationally sound and capable of meeting current and future water demands.

State funding for this project is essential to minimizing the financial burden on the communities served by the plant. Without this investment, the cost of necessary upgrades would fall disproportionately on ratepayers, resulting in significant surcharges that could strain local budgets and households. By supporting this bill, the State of Minnesota will help protect the affordability and sustainability of regional water service while ensuring the continued delivery of safe drinking water.

We urge you to support House File 972 during its hearing on March 6th and, along with Rice Lake's bonding request (HF401), please prioritize these much-needed investments in our region.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Herstad
Mayor
City of Rice Lake