

April 15, 2024

Representative Aisha Gomez, Chair, House Tax Committee
Representative Dave Lislegard, Chair, House Property Tax Division
Senator Ann Rest, Chair, Senate Tax Committee
Senator Grant Hauschild
Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 5198, Senate File 5435

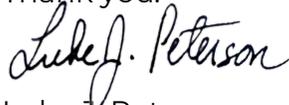
Dear Chair Gomez, Chair Rest, Chair Lislegard and Senator Hauschild:

I am writing today in support of House File 5198, Rep. Lislegard's Property Tax Division Report, and Senate File 5435 (Hauschild).

We appreciate Rep. Lislegard and Sen. Hauschild including funding for Hibbing Public Utilities for clean drinking water infrastructure in the City of Hibbing. Our drinking water project, along with all the others in this proposed legislation are very important to the communities of the Iron Range.

Our water infrastructure needs are byproduct of the mining industry here on the Iron Range as we have needed to move drinking water wells and treatment facilities to accommodate mining expansion. The funds being directed toward these projects come from taxes paid by our local mining companies in lieu of property taxes, so it is a fitting use. We appreciate this money being reinvested into our local communities on the Iron Range and appreciate Rep. Lislegard and Sen. Hauschild for introducing this legislation.

Thank you.



Luke J. Peterson
General Manager

CC: Iron Range Legislative Delegation Members



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Dear Chair Gomez, Chair Rest, Chair Lislegard and Senator Hauschild:

I am writing today in support of House File 5198, Rep. Lislegard's Property Tax Division Report, and Senate File 5435 (Hauschild).

I appreciate Rep. Lislegard and Sen. Hauschild including infrastructure funding for Silver Bay in their bills. Silver Bay is a mining town that was built all at once. Because of that, our infrastructure is failing and in need of repair all at once. This funding will go a long way toward helping us replace this ageing system. We think it makes sense to use these funds for Silver Bay as the funding comes from taxes paid by our local mining companies in lieu of property taxes.

We appreciate this money being reinvested into our local communities on the Iron Range and appreciate Rep. Lislegard and Sen. Hauschild for introducing this legislation.

Thank you.

Wade LeBlanc

Wade LeBlanc
Mayor
City of Silver Bay, Minnesota

The mission of the City of Silver Bay is to make Silver Bay a great place to live, work, and visit by providing cost-effective government and services to improve the lives of those it serves.



Representative Dave Lislegard
Chair, House Property Tax Division
451 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Grant Hauschild
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3111
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 15, 2024

Dear Chair Lislegard and Senator Hauschild:

On behalf of the Mesabi Fit Coalition in Mt. Iron, I am writing today in support of House File 5198, Rep. Lislegard's Property Tax Division Report, and Senate File 5435 (Hauschild).

We appreciate you including funding for Mesabi Fit in your bill!

The Mesabi Fit Coalition's proposed project represents a pivotal opportunity to revitalize a vital community resource. The former Mesabi Family YMCA has long served as a cornerstone of our community, providing essential programs and services that promote health, wellness, and social engagement for individuals of all ages. However, over the years, the facility has faced challenges related to aging infrastructure and limited capacity, hindering its ability to meet the evolving needs of our growing population.

The proposed renovation, reconstruction, and expansion efforts promise to breathe new life into this cherished institution, ensuring that it remains a beacon of health and wellness for generations to come. By modernizing the facility and expanding its capacity, the Mesabi Fit Coalition aims to enhance access to fitness facilities, recreational programs, and educational opportunities, fostering a healthier and more vibrant community for all residents. A membership assistance program assures fully equitable access by persons/families with low incomes. Parents are supported by a modern and well-staffed child watch program. Partnership opportunities are being developed to make the facility available to schools which lack comparable facilities, children and families involved with foster care, mental health, and recovery programs, and more.

This investment will impact a broad geographic area and a wide spectrum of demographic groups. It enhances area quality of life measures with all the attendant benefits to economic development and public health.

Respectfully,

Christy Dreshar
Executive Director
Mesabi Fit

CC: Iron Range Delegation, Mesabi Fit Board of Directors