



DEDICATED TO A STRONG GREATER MINNESOTA

June 22, 2021

Dear Representative Hansen, Senator Ingebrigtsen and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy working group,

On behalf of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, I want to thank you for your hard work on the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Bill. There is much to be praised in HF 5/SF 20, and we support its passage as amended. This letter highlights several items that are of particular importance to our members.

Municipal PFAS Source Reduction Strategy

We are pleased that the working group included the PFAS Source Reduction Strategy in the bill (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(k); ln. 4.19-5.33). Our member cities want to do what they can to keep PFAS out of our waters, but right now it is not technologically feasible to remove PFAS from wastewater. The only way for our cities to tackle the PFAS problem in wastewater is to address the sources of PFAS.

We are pleased that the bill includes this initiative that we have been working on for several years. This strategy will help cities focus on keeping PFAS out of wastewater by helping to identify the sources of PFAS in their effluent, identifying strategies to keep PFAS out, and educating wastewater operators and the public on these strategies. The plan also includes an advisory taskforce so that our cities can continue to have a voice as strategies are developed and implemented.

Local Government Water Infrastructure Grants

We appreciate the inclusion of a local government water infrastructure grant program (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(h); ln. 12.21-12.28) that will continue into the future. With the increasing impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on our cities' infrastructure, these funds will play a critical role in developing plans to address those challenges.

LCCMR Bill

Thank you for moving forward the 2020 and 2021 recommendations of the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (Art. 5 and Art. 6). These recommendations contain a host of projects that are important to our member cities, ranging from grants for park and trail development to optimizing wastewater ponds to studying PFAS in biosolids. We also appreciate the inclusion of grants for chloride reduction, which has been a top priority for our organization for several years (Art. 5, Sec.2, Subd. 20 (a)(4)).

Again, thank you for your work on this legislation and all that you do to help Greater Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Zylka".

Greg Zylka, Mayor of Little Falls
President, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities