



May 9, 2022

Chair Ingebrigtsen, Chair Hansen and members of the SF 4062 Conference Committee,

I am writing to ask the conference committee to consider funding the Metropolitan Council's initiative to develop a tool to help communities identify and map infrastructure at risk from climate and extreme weather events.

This initiative is intended to help guide infrastructure funding and design decisions, helping to minimize future, costly replacement of under-designed infrastructure, and target investments in areas at risk from hotter temperatures, severe storms, flooding, and increased drought. While datasets related to flooding, groundwater flow, infrastructure, and topography exist, there are critical gaps that could be improved with this tool to help communities make more informed decisions with valuable infrastructure funds.

The Governor recommended \$5 million for this initiative in his budget proposal, and we are appreciative that it was included in the House bill at \$2.5 million. This proposal was developed with input from, and would be implemented through, a broad cross section of city, county, watershed and other agency stakeholders convened by the Met Council.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next few weeks as you complete your work on the omnibus Environment & Natural Resources bill. Please reach out to me or Judd Schetnan with any questions or comments. We are available to meet at your convenience.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Zelle".

Charles A. Zelle  
Chair, Metropolitan Council