

April 15, 2021

Representative Fue Lee  
Chair, House Capital Investment Committee  
85 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 337

Dear Rep. Lee,

Thank you for including language in your author's amendment today that will allow the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to continue critical work to clean up contamination in the St. Louis River estuary and Duluth Harbor.

This language extends for two years until 12/31/2023 the availability of a \$24.5 million 2017 bonding appropriation for remedial work in the St. Louis River Area of Concern. This 2017 appropriation generates a \$47 million match from the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Due to COVID and other unexpected delays, the construction/remediation work will not be completed by the current deadline of 12/31/21. As a result, about \$13.5 million of the 2017 appropriation has not been encumbered.

With this two-year extension in place, we expect to encumber all of the 2017 appropriation dollars and complete all of the needed cleanup work to the benefit of both water quality in the St. Louis River as well as aquatic habitat and the local economy. Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Laura Bishop  
Commissioner