



Pine Bend Elementary School

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February 25, 2020

Ruth Richardson
Minnesota State Representative

Matt Klein
Minnesota State Senator

RE: Veterans Memorial Greenway

Dear Rep. Richardson and Sen. Klein:

On behalf of Pine Bend Elementary School students and families, I am writing to offer our strong support for Dakota County's proposed Veterans Memorial Greenway in Inver Grove Heights. The Veterans Memorial Greenway will provide a safer, shorter, 100%-accessible pathway from Pine Bend Elementary School to Dakota County's recently-created, 134-acre DarVan Acres natural area, with all of its planned programming for children, plus a connection to our city's most popular park.

Since many of our students and their families currently have no safe way to walk or ride across busy Highway 52, the nature center and park are essentially unavailable to them, even though they are located only about one mile from Pine Bend Elementary.

Of particular note is that this safe connection provided by the Veterans Memorial Greenway will be completely free to access and use. This is important to us at Pine Bend, where over 40% of our students meet federal income requirements to qualify for our free and reduced lunch program. Providing a free and easy way for our students and their families to access natural areas, parks, playgrounds and playing fields is an exciting prospect for our school community.

On behalf of our students and their families, thank you for your efforts to construct the Veterans Memorial Greenway in Inver Grove Heights.

Very truly yours,

Quennel Cooper
Principal
Pine Bend Elementary