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Representative Fue Lee
House Capital Investment Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 1, 2023

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

As the Committee reviews the Governor's budget recommendations, we thank you for considering many important programs and investments that will benefit people and nature.

We write to share our support for the proposed appropriation of \$25,210,000 for Local Government Stormwater Construction Grants. Resources for these resilience-building activities are in high demand all across the state. Grants under this program will help cities and communities plan and implement projects to adapt to more severe droughts, floods, and a changing climate. Investments in both built and natural infrastructure through this program are critical to ensuring Minnesota communities are able to face these current and future challenges.

As this committee considers infrastructure investments to include in a bonding proposal to address climate change and make Minnesota more resilient, we encourage you to include this Local Government Stormwater Construction Grants program among a suite of other natural infrastructure investments that use nature as an effective carbon sequestration and resilience tool. Other natural infrastructure investments include reforestation and tree planting, increased tree seedling supply, grassland and wetland conservation, and water storage and floodplain protection.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla
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