

Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System

Dear Honorable Legislators:

As metro regional park implementing agencies, we are writing with opposition to HF2419 | SF2321 requiring a replacement fund for local agencies that receive capital investment appropriations in the state's bonding bill.

Fiscal responsibility and maintenance of projects has always been and will continue to be important to regional park system implementing agencies of both the staff and elected officials, our concerns about these bills are several:

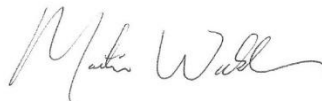
- Local agencies are partners in developing and constructing projects with statewide or regional significance, often providing additional funding for these projects.
- Replacement funds of this kind would be cost prohibitive, sometimes consuming all a local agency's annual capital budget.
- This bill would significantly reduce local agencies' ability to be partners in funding and constructing projects with statewide or regional significance, putting nearly all projects onto the state to complete, without local cost shares.
- Because these projects have a statewide or regional significance, the local entity should not be fully responsible for the maintenance and replacement fund.
- Guaranteeing replacement through a fund does not help agencies adjust to future conditions and community desires. A funding request for a project in 2023 doesn't mean that the community will want the same project in 2053.
- Ownership change of projects adds a complicating factor to this bill.

As always, we remain grateful for the work that you do with our agencies to provide vital park spaces and programs to metro area residents, and all the health, recreation and economic benefits that come from this investment. We hope that the current language of the bills can be eliminated or changed so that we can continue to partner with the state on large, priority capital projects in the future.

Sincerely,



Jeff Perry
Parks Director
Anoka County



Martin Walsh
Parks and Recreation Director
Carver County



Al Bangoura
Superintendent
Minneapolis Park and Recreation
Board



Ann Kattreh
Parks and Recreation Director
City of Bloomington



Niki Geisler
Director of Parks
Dakota County



Mark McCabe
Director of Parks and Recreation
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Signatures continued page 2.

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City of Saint Paul



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