

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Fue Lee
Chair, House Capital Investment
Minnesota House of Representatives
485 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Lee, Lead Urdahl, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the thoughtful work and conversations that have led to the development of this year's Capital Investment bills, HF 5220 and HF 5162. I am grateful that the committee was able to fund two line items for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Ensuring the delivery of safe drinking water and investing in community solid waste infrastructure are both worthy initiatives that protect human health and the environment.

I would like to ensure that the committee is aware of the need to balance general obligation bond funding with some general fund for the Statewide Contamination Mitigation item. The work to ensure private well owners are connected to safe drinking water could take many forms, including funding privately owned water lines to hook up to municipal systems, or in cases where a neighborhood hook-up is not possible, drilling new wells and capping old private wells for the impacted homeowner. These portions of projects are not bondable and would need to be funded through General Fund dollars. A total of \$8 million in General Obligation bonds and \$2 million from the General Fund—the amounts included in the Governor's recommendations—would allow the agency to start this important program by funding the second phase of connecting the Red Oaks neighborhood in Andover to a municipal system. We already know the need for this program will be great, and future investment will be critical to ensuring safe drinking water for all Minnesotans.

Again, thank you for your diligent work to assemble a bill that makes thoughtful investments in projects and infrastructure that benefit all Minnesotans. We look forward to working with you as we move into the next stages of the process.

Sincerely,



Katrina Kessler, P.E.
Commissioner