



March 4, 2026

Co-Chair Fue Lee and Co-Chair Mary Franson  
Members of the House Capital Investment Committee  
Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-Chairs Lee and Franson and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) writes in support of investments in the Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program (FHMGP). RRWMB appreciates the Committee's investment of \$9 million in FHMGP in the 2025 Bonding Bill. FHMGP is a statewide program that provides critical technical and financial assistance to communities for flood mitigation and infrastructure – including communities in the Red River Basin.

The RRWMB supports the Department of Natural Resources' preliminary recommendation of \$45 million and the Governor's recommendation of \$9 million for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program (FHMGP). Currently there is over \$200 million in known funding need across the State of Minnesota for the FHMGP to construct flood mitigation – water storage projects, some of which have been on the list for FHMGP funding up to ten years.

In the Red River Basin alone, we have three flood mitigation – water storage projects of 82,500 acre-feet underway with millions of dollars of investment in them through local and various State of Minnesota funding sources. These projects are not yet completed and do not function because we cannot finish them alone with just local funds. These are all multipurpose projects that will incorporate flood mitigation – water storage, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resources features.

Because these projects are multipurpose, the State of Minnesota also benefits from the functions provided once completed. We realize the difficult position that the Minnesota Legislature is in to provide for various capital investment needs across the state. Attached is information about the FHMGP developed separately by the RRWMB and DNR. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Finney".

John Finney  
President, RRWMB

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Sip".

Robert L. Sip  
Executive Director, RRWMB

**CC:** RRWMB Managers and RRWMB Membership