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House Capital Investment

Chair: Rep. Fue Lee

HF 3669

Floodwood; water and sewer infrastructure

I am a Jake Benson, a former mayor, current city councilor but more importantly today, the owner of the community newspaper, The Floodwood Forum.

Chair Lee, committee members, Rep. Igo - thank you for the opportunity to speak today on Floodwood's behalf.

Floodwood is 45 miles from its nearest neighbors; Grand Rapids, Hibbing, Cloquet and Proctor. And they are 152 miles from St. Paul.

The city did not seek my help or assistance. But I know all too well about the state of the city. And, I know the importance of being here to help tell their story.

The city has made wonderful strides, formed partnerships that have brought needed and exciting opportunities to Floodwood. They have navigated the sometimes-laborious criteria of projects to receive funding.

However, Floodwood's economy cannot finance the city's simple ambitions that other communities take for granted. They are working hard to create jobs, build affordable housing, and expand economic development.

They are working hard to ensure the community not just survives but thrives. They are trying to create exciting opportunities for investment and economic growth.

But they need your help. And, they need your support on HF 3669.

Thank you.