



DEDICATED TO A STRONG GREATER MINNESOTA

May 24, 2021

The Honorable Governor Tim Walz
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3113
St. Paul, MN 55155

Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senate Minority Leader Susan Kent
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2227
St. Paul, MN 55155

House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
267 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz and Legislative Leaders,

On behalf of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, I want to thank the Governor, Speaker Hortman and Majority Leader Gazelka for working together to achieve an agreement on the state budget targets for the next biennium. There is still a substantial amount of work that needs to be done before the budget is finalized, but your willingness to collaborate and compromise on dollar amounts and key priorities is a major step forward.

As we look ahead to a June special session, I urge you all to bring that same spirit of compromise to another issue that is very important to cities in Greater Minnesota: the bonding bill.

While the state budget will be the primary focus of the special session — and rightfully so — there is still tremendous need for infrastructure funding throughout the state. The bonding bill remains the best vehicle through which numerous critical and worthy projects can receive the funding they need to move forward.

The bonding bill signed into law in October 2020 helped fund dozens of important projects that will have a tremendous benefit on our local communities and the entire state. However, serious needs remain. We urge you to pass a bonding bill in the special session that includes funding for these priorities that impact Greater Minnesota cities, businesses and families:

- \$100 million for clean water infrastructure grant and loan program administered by the Public Facilities Authority
- \$10 million for the Child Care Facilities Grant Program, which was created in the 2020 bill but not funded

- \$20 million for the Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program (BDPI)
- \$2.5 million for a new workforce housing public infrastructure grant program as outlined in HF430 (Hamilton)/SF1903 (Westrom)

The bonding bill is a vital tool for economic recovery as our communities continue to fight back from the hardships caused by the pandemic. If you fail to pass a bill this year, necessary infrastructure repairs and economic development projects will be forced to delay, and their costs will only go up. With continued low interest rates and a strong state bond rating, it makes good fiscal sense to pass a modest bonding bill that focuses on key infrastructure needs this year.

As you continue to negotiate with each other and your fellow lawmakers over the next few weeks, please make sure the bonding bill is included in your to-do list for the special session.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Zylka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" and last name "Zylka" clearly distinguishable.

Greg Zylka, Mayor of Little Falls
President, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

cc: Senator Tom Bakk
Senator Sandy Pappas
Representative Fue Lee
Representative Dean Urdahl