



April 5, 2022

Dear Senator Bakk and Members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear the governor's recommendations for the 2022 Capital Investment bill, SF4413. We appreciate your ongoing work to assemble a bonding bill this session. We are writing to highlight two important provisions in the governor's proposal – the recommendations to fund the Red Wing Upper Harbor (l. 17.25 – 17.30) and the Red Wing Riverfront Trail (l. 17.19—17.30) – and urge that you include them in your 2022 bonding bill.

Both projects were conceived as part of the city's community wide two-year 2040 planning process. More than 2,500 people played a role in developing a vision of revitalizing the Mississippi Riverfront to boost economic development and advance environmental stability.

We are proud that Red Wing is one of the largest corn and soybean exporters by river barge in Minnesota, with more than 500 barges coming through our port annually, moving grain from farmers within a 75-mile radius. That industry is important to the entire region, and the Upper Harbor Renovation makes critical safety improvements such as realigning Levee Road so large grain trucks can move efficiently away from pedestrians and bicyclists. The project also improves environmental sustainability in the Upper Harbor by renewing an eight-acre wetland to manage stormwater and overhauling a 200-acre brownfield area into green space for recreation.

The second riverfront project, a new segment of the Riverfront Trail from He Mni Can-Barn Bluff to Colvill Park, will bring us closer to completing a scenic trail system across our entire city. The project would provide a safe corridor for families to get to retail, recreation, and jobs while also enjoying stunning geography and wildlife. The new trail would also bring more awareness to He Mni Can-Barn Bluff's new trailhead plaza that spotlights our City's Dakota history—a project done in collaboration with the Prairie Island Indian Community.

In Red Wing, we continue to build for the future and diversify our economic foundation—growing industry, business, and hospitality while embracing outdoor recreation, arts, history, and tourism. Today, we ask you to support the Red Wing Riverfront Projects and help Red Wing become an economic and outdoor recreation hub for our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Becky Norton".

Becky Norton, City Council President
City of Red Wing