

Honorable Minnesota State Legislators

RE: Prohibiting schools and its related activities from being built on Toxic Dump Sites

I am aware that the bill SF 495 and HF 807 is being brought forth again during this Legislative session in its entirety – it is still as valid today as it was back in 2014/2017/2019

I support this bill-and am asking that it be given a fair hearing so it can move through the legislative process.

With the pressure on all industrial/commercial entities to dispose of their waste in a prudent manner plus lawsuits against one of Minnesota's major businesses (3M) in its "dumping" of toxic materials that have caused great pollution in our state, any construction of any building that will house students and staff should not be allowed to be built on, at, or near a toxic waste site.

This bill will be a major step in limiting hundreds of Minnesota citizens from being needlessly exposed to health hazards that arise from being near a toxic waste site.

As a former member of the Rice Creek Watershed District RCWD

I sat on the board as the committee approved permits that have placed our children needlessly at risk over my objections.

To often the MPCA, DNR, Department of Education, MDH Department of Health, local School Boards and City Councils all give their approval without speaking to one another. They act as silos only reviewing the parts that they have jurisdiction over with out reviewing the entire picture with one another and its risks.

This bill will eliminate buildings and athletic fields from falling through the cracks and putting children at risk.

While on the RCWD board I listened to citizens objecting to sewer and water utility lines running through or near contaminated soils placing down gradient ground water and lakes at risk of contamination. In fact it is suspected that Lost Lake added by the MPCA in 2013 is impaired for high mercury in fish. After the mixed municipal dump was surcharged and utility lines were allowed to be run near contaminated soils providing the path for the toxic plume to travel.

According to the White Bear Press, Representative Peter Fischer member of Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

Rep. Peter Fischer states that he will continue working with Minnesotans to prevent public health crisis by establishing stronger oversight and safeguards at facilities and will be introducing legislation to clean up Lost Lake in Mahtomedi.

Lost Lake overflows into White Bear Lake located in the RCWD. Rice Creek Watershed District is a source for drinking water.

I will provide a picture taken on March 6 2020 which is of concern of a ditch connected to Lost Lake.

If this legislation first introduced by former Senator Ray Vandever in 2012 had been passed there would be no need to seek funding to clean up Lost Lake.

I would be happy to testify in a zoom meeting when this bill is heard. Thank you for your support and many appreciate the fact that Mr. Lanoux is a passionate advocate in alerting all to this issue.

Sincerely,

Barbara Haake (cell 651.442.1022)

Former MN State Representative from New Brighton/Mounds View (1999-2001)

Former Board Member Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

Former board member RCWD

Address: 3024 County Road I; St. Paul, MN 55112-4309

Barbara Haake; 3024 County Road I; St. Paul, MN 55112;
Phone: 651-442-1022



It is suspected that the placement of water and sewer lines placed in contaminated soils from the former superfund site Bellaire Sanitation # MND64792427 Wildwood Elementary School against the recommendation of Public health engineer Bradliy Erickson is the source of contamination of Lost Lake . That is why the MPCA placed Lost Lake on the Impaired list for high mercury in fish . The DNR and the MPCA along with Representitive Peter Fischer have failed to meet with residentTim DeWuske to properly address this issue. The only other lakes listed as impaired for high mercury in fish are Lake Jane ,and Tanners lake both located near dump sites. in Washington County. The Washington County water conservation legacy report did not list Lost Lake on the impaired list for any contamination in its report in 2010. It is only after the Mahtomedi School District 832 surgecharged the mixed municipal dump area and ran public sewer and water lines next to the contaminated soils , providing a raceway down gradient to Lost Lake did the lake get listed as impaired for mercury in fish.

