



March 14, 2022

***Sent via Email**

The Honorable Senator Ingebrigtsen, Chair
Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3207
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for SF 3751 – Local Road Wetland Replacement Program

Dear Chair Ingebrigtsen and Members of the Committee:

Olmsted County urges your support for [SF 3751](#) which appropriates funding from the state general fund for the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program. This funding is urgently needed in addition to general obligation bonding dollars. Thank you for hearing and authoring the bill and for leading on this issue.

Under the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program (LRWRP), the state is statutorily obligated to provide the required mitigation for improvements and reconstruction of existing local roads (wetland impacts of entirely new local roads must be paid for by the local government). The lost wetlands reported to the state are replaced by the Board of Water Soil Resources (BWSR) using the funds appropriated for the LRWRP.

The LRWRP has been inadequately funded in the past and a number of the bank service areas have less than a one-year credit supply. Olmsted County uses the LRWRP on almost all of our reconstruction projects. We have utilized nearly 10 acres of credits on current projects and hope additional credits will be approved shortly for a reconstruction project to begin this summer. Without funding, local road projects could be delayed or possibly cancelled.

Thank you for your consideration for this important funding and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Thein".

Mark Thein, Chair
Olmsted County Board of Commissioners
thein.mark@co.olmsted.mn.us