



February 14, 2023

The Honorable Sandra Pappas, Chair
Senate Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota Senate Building 2113
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Karin Housley, Ranking Minority Leader
Senate Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota Senate Building 2213
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pappas, Ranking Minority Leader Housley, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Greater Mankato Growth, the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Organization representing more than 900 members in the Greater Mankato region. I write in support of the \$44.5 million bonding request of the City of Mankato for their Water Resource Recovery Facility (HF145/SF190). Fully funding this project would represent a strategic investment in a critical infrastructure project that serves 10 communities in the Greater Mankato region.

The mission of Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) is to support and promote the economic growth and vitality of our members and the regional marketplace. As a growing, dynamic Greater Minnesota metro hub, this project represents the very foundation of our economic vitality which is the fundamental ability to provide clean, safe water and adequately treat wastewater. The Mankato-North Mankato Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has a labor shed of nearly 300,000 people and has grown by more than 21% since 2000. This project is a key priority for our members and will support our regional livability and promote economic growth.

The City of Mankato's vision is leading the way as a vibrant, diverse, and regional community. In support of that vision, GMG is a proud partner in economic development as part of the Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA) which includes the City of Mankato and four additional cities along with Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties. In this partnership, we promote an atmosphere of cooperation, leveraging our unique strengths, and providing efficient and effective service delivery in order to facilitate continued economic prosperity of our region. The Mankato Water Resource Recovery Facility is a regional asset that will serve our area and support continued growth into the future.

We urge you to fully fund HF145/SF190 for the Mankato Water Resource Recovery Facility for \$44.5 million.

Respectfully,

Jessica Beyer
President & CEO

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