



Sappi North America

Cloquet Mill

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Senate Capital Investment Committee

RE: Support for Western Lake Superior Sanitary District Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the 700 employees of the Sappi Cloquet Operations, I write to you today **to urge your support for funding for the WLSSD Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation bonding request in 2023 (HF2448, SF2193)**. The WLSSD facility provides the final effluent treatment for the Sappi Cloquet mill. We only have primary clarification of our effluent on site which requires further treatment at WLSSD to meet State and Federal compliance. Our effluent flows account for 40% of the total flow to the District, so they can be considered an extension of our process. If the District were to lose another secondary clarifier, we would be forced to shut down our operation until the repairs were completed. This would have a devastating impact to the people in the region. As you are aware, the Sappi Cloquet mill is the economic engine in the region. Our wood buy alone creates an estimated \$4.6B in annual economic activity based on a 2015 partnership study by the DNR and MFI.

In the 2023 legislative session, WLSSD is requesting \$17.5 million to proceed with the structural and mechanical renovation of all four secondary clarifiers. This project is critical to the continuation of successfully treating wastewater and protecting public health. Bonding support will allow the District to make these necessary repairs while keeping rates stable and fostering continued economic growth.

Please support the inclusion of \$17.5 million in the 2023 Legislative Session for the WLSSD Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation Project.

Sincerely,,

Tom J Radovich

