



OFFICE OF THE
**KANABEC COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

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February 28, 2023

Natasha Segelstrom
Administrative Services Director
City of Mora
101 Lake Street South
Mora, MN 55051

Dear Ms. Segelstrom,

Please accept this letter as a show of support for the City of Mora's request for Congressional Directed Spending for the Mora Lake Outlet Pipe project. As I understand it, this project could drastically lesson residential street flooding and practically eliminate the risk of Mora Lake rising over Highway 65 during extreme rains.

As you know, in 2018 Mora Lake rose high enough to cover Highway 65, rerouting traffic for weeks and creating serious challenges to the response times of emergency services, as well as creating significant hardships for home and business owners in the area. In 2019, water levels were just shy creating a need to close the Highway again. In 2016, the community also experienced serious flooding, though that time was focused more around the Snake River valley. We can no longer act as if these events will only occur once every 100 years.

We must take action to mitigate the risks extreme weather is bringing to our community. Yet, we have a low tax capacity to manage these expenses. According to research by Wadena County with data from 2021, Kanabec County was shown to have the highest tax rate and highest homeowner tax burden in Minnesota. With a small population and a low average income, our community must have help to cover the cost of this improvement which impacts a state trunk highway. Thank you for your efforts in this regard.

Sincerely,

Alison Holland
Kanabec County Commissioner, District Two