



Carlton County, Minnesota

Commissioners Office

Carlton County Courthouse
P.O. Box 130, Carlton, MN 55718-0130

First District - Dick Brenner (Chairperson)

Second District - Marv Bodie

Third District - Thomas Proulx

Fourth District - Susan Zmyslony (Vice-Chairperson)

Fifth District - Gary Peterson

March 14, 2023

RE: Support for St. Louis County Leachate Treatment at the Virginia Landfill & Initial Development of the Canyon Landfill Funding Request

To Whom It May Concern:

We write to you today to urge your support for funding for the Leachate Treatment at the Virginia Landfill and the Initial Development of the Canyon Landfill.

Currently, Carlton County sends approximately 17,000 tons of solid waste annually to the Moccasin Mike Landfill in Superior, Wisconsin. This landfill is expected to close by 2026, requiring Carlton County to find a new landfill site to accept solid waste. The Canyon Landfill would provide an ideal alternative for Carlton County's disposal needs. \$20 million is sought to support the planning, funding and development for the establishment of a state-of-the-art integrated waste management campus in New Independence Township, near Canyon. The Canyon facility has been identified as a long-term MSW management solution in the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan for Northeast Minnesota.

The Regional Landfill in Virginia, MN is also in need of \$4.5 million to expand and relocate their leachate management ponds. St. Louis County is investing in advance filtration technologies, including an engineered wetland treatment system to reduce PFAS and other contaminants leaching into the groundwater. Preliminary research shows a 97% reduction in PFAS through use of this system.

In the 2023 legislative session, St. Louis County is requesting \$24.5 million to proceed with the updated Leachate Treatment at the Virginia Landfill and the Initial Development of the Canyon Landfill. This project is critical for water quality and responsible solid waste management in Northeastern Minnesota.

Please support the inclusion of \$24.5 million in the 2023 Legislative Session for St. Louis County Leachate Treatment at the Virginia Landfill & Initial Development of the Canyon Landfill Funding Request.

Sincerely,


Dick Brenner, Board Chair
Carlton County Board of Commissioners