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Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

March 7, 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.

Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) provides wastewater and solid waste services and oversight for a 530 square mile region that overlaps the southeastern portion of St. Louis County.

Currently, the District sends approximately 90,000 tons of solid waste to the Moccasin Mike Landfill in Superior, WI annually. That landfill is nearing end of life. By 2026, WLSSD will require a new landfill site to accept solid waste from our region. The Canyon Landfill would provide an ideal alternative for the District'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 show 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marianne Bohren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marianne Bohren
Executive Director
Western Lake Superior Sanitary District