



DEDICATED TO A STRONG GREATER MINNESOTA

February 14, 2023

RE: Support for Senate File 755/ House File 820

Dear Senator Hawj and Committee Members:

I am reaching out on behalf of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) to express our support for S.F. 755. The CGMC is a group of more than 100 cities throughout the state. Our member cities endorse this legislation because they support the effort to reduce salt pollution in our waters.

Our CGMC member cities play an essential role in protecting Minnesota's waters through their wastewater and stormwater systems. Many of our cities face high levels of salty parameters in our waters and seek the opportunity to partner in efforts to reduce such pollution. High levels of chloride are harmful to aquatic plants and animals and may also impact groundwater used for drinking. Chloride and other salts can severely damage treatment infrastructure as well. Unlike nutrients such as phosphorus or nitrogen, chloride permanently pollutes water because there is no cost-effective or practical method to remove it.

Road salt has been identified as one of the primary causes of the increased chloride in Minnesota's waters. Because it is not feasible to remove chloride from wastewater and stormwater, the best way to address the issue is by preventing it from reaching our water in the first place. S.F. 755 is an important first step that will assist in reducing the amount of road salt used on sidewalks and streets, help the businesses in our communities implement best management practices, and result in cleaner waters across Minnesota.

I thank you again for the opportunity to express our support for this legislation. While it will not solve this issue in its entirety, we believe it is a common-sense solution that will promote immediate investment to protect Minnesota's waters affordably. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Brian Holmer
President, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities
Mayor, Thief River Falls