



DEDICATED TO A STRONG GREATER MINNESOTA

March 1, 2023

**RE: Support for Senate File 834/ House File 1000**

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. 834. The CGMC is a group of more than 100 cities throughout the state that play an essential role in protecting Minnesota's waters through their wastewater and stormwater systems.

The presence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Minnesota's waters is a serious health concern that must be addressed. However, our members' ability to address PFAS, especially at wastewater facilities, is limited by technology and other factors. Our cities and their wastewater systems have not created this problem; wastewater treatment facilities do not produce or use PFAS in the course of treating wastewater. Instead, they receive these chemicals through the waste stream due to their widespread use. Because there is no effective method for removing PFAS from the wastewater stream, the only way to address this problem currently is to stop these chemicals at the source.

In short, we have to keep these chemicals from getting into the waste stream in the first place. This legislation, and related legislation being heard in your committee, addresses this issue by seeking to stop the use of PFAS in consumer and other products.

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 an important step to curb the presence of PFAS in our water. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

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