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March 13, 2023

Chair Pappas and Members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee:

The City of Fergus Falls has been fighting algae problems on Lake Alice for many years, with no discernible improvement. A proposed \$5 million dollar drain and dredge plan was rejected several years ago as being too costly and overly intrusive, and we've found other proposed solutions lacking. But we must keep trying and are looking at new solutions.

That's why the City of Fergus Falls supports SF2423, Sen. Jasinski's bill appropriating revenues that will fund three, two-year water improvement pilot projects. We appreciate Sen. Jasinski's recognition of the need to bring this bill forward, and for the support of committee co-sponsors Sen. Pha and our own Sen. Rasmusson. We urge the committee to look favorably on the request and join us in supporting inclusion of these grants in the Omnibus Capital Investment bill.

Lake Alice is one of the three projects funded in the bill. It is a beautiful but troubled natural resource to the city. One mile in circumference, it is surrounded by craftsman style turn-of-the-twentieth century homes that make it perfect for an evening stroll or gathering with friends. The trouble is, the water becomes covered in a thick mat of decaying green algae fairly early every summer and the smell becomes overbearing. We would consider it a success if we could find a solution that makes the decay go away, resulting in clean looking-and smelling water. We are eager to return to the days of enjoying the lake for the asset it is to our city.

Thank you for consideration of this bill. We know there are many other lakes in the state with issues similar to Lake Alice, and we hope you agree we should be supporting new and innovative ways to provide relief.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Bremseth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew Bremseth
City Administrator