



March 19, 2024

Dear Senator Hawj and members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee,

On behalf of our organizations, which collectively represent nearly all cities in Minnesota, we are writing to express our support for S.F. 4073, legislation authored by Senator McEwen that would appropriate \$500,000 to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for testing of PFAS in municipal wastewater influent, effluent and biosolids.

The League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) is a membership organization that serves more than 800 member cities through advocacy, education and training, policy development, risk management, and other services. The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) is a group of more than 100 cities throughout the state dedicated to developing viable progressive communities for families and businesses through good local government and strong economic growth. Our cities play a significant role in ensuring Minnesotans have clean water through our wastewater facilities and their biosolids programs.

We share the Legislature's concerns about the health risks associated with per-and-polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and have been supportive of efforts to address PFAS through source control. Our wastewater facilities are not sources of PFAS. Rather, they are receivers of PFAS from other upstream sources. We conduct our wastewater discharge and biosolids programs in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and NPDES permit requirements, and removing PFAS from our effluent and biosolids is neither technologically nor economically feasible.

Because the treating and destroying of PFAS in wastewater and biosolids is not feasible, and the only practical solution is source reduction and elimination, our organizations have worked with the MPCA and other city groups—such as the Minnesota Environmental Science and Economic Review Board (MESERB)—to develop and implement aggressive science-based source reduction strategies. These strategies require significant resources for PFAS monitoring and sampling in wastewater influent, effluent, and biosolids so we know where the PFAS is coming from and can prioritize efforts to protect human health and the environment. Testing at the municipal level is expensive and challenging for a number of reasons, including the need for trained personnel who can take the samples accurately, and the cost of limited lab resources that are capable of analyzing the samples.

Because these approaches are so new, we lack a funding source for this work. We believe that providing the MPCA funding from the Clean Water Fund to implement these approaches aligns with the goals of that fund and supplements other state work to manage PFAS. We therefore urge

you to appropriate \$500,000 from the Clean Water Fund for this important PFAS source reduction and elimination work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Wefel". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Elizabeth Wefel  
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. Johnson". The script is cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Craig Johnson, Intergovernmental Relations  
League of Minnesota Cities