



City of Granite Falls

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February 20, 2024

Senate Transportation Committee

RE: Highway 212 Bridge – Dave Smiglewski

Dear Chair Dibble,

The City of Granite Falls would like to express strong support for the Transportation Committee to consider naming the Highway 212 bridge in memory of Mayor Dave Smiglewski. Dave Smiglewski first joined the Granite Falls City Council at age 26 in 1979 and was appointed Mayor in 1996. He held this position until his passing from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) on September 22, 2023 at the age 70.

It is challenging to state in just one letter the number of times he has demonstrated exceptional leadership as Mayor for our community. It was with his leadership he was able to help the city navigate through several tumultuous times throughout history, including two very traumatic floods and a tornado. His guidance has strongly impacted the community, region, and state.

As a leader, Dave had always shown his dedication and love for Granite Falls by going above and beyond any requirements for an elected official. He actively worked with staff on city matters in addition to serving on numerous local committees including: the food shelf, Project Turnabout, and Kiwanis. More broadly he also served on the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities board, the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition, the League of MN Cities, and many more.

He has always demonstrated a strong passion for the public sector while doing what is best for the city instead of elevating himself. He continually inspires others to serve their community and instills confidence in others to do so. In the past he mentored new councilmembers on city functions and takes time to answer questions from any resident.

His leadership, passion for stewardship, and sustainability will continue to have a forever positive impact on the community for many years to come.

I greatly apologize I was not able to attend the hearing this week and our community would like to thank you for considering our request to honor him and name the Granite Falls 212 highway bridge in his memory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Crystal Johnson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Crystal Johnson
City Manager