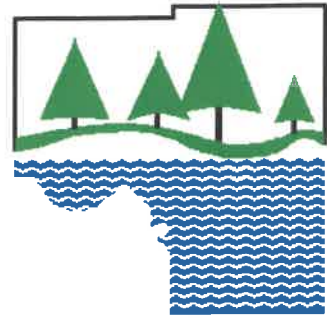


ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse
Administrative Services
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218) 327-2848



February 3, 2025

Senator Foug Hawj
Chair of Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3231
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 0575, Old Central School Renovation

Dear Senator Hawj;

It is my understanding that the City of Grand Rapids has requested \$3.8 million in funding from the Arts and Culture Heritage to assist in \$7.6 million in necessary remodeling expenses at Old Central School.

Old Central School is located at the intersection of TH 2/169 in downtown Grand Rapids which is the county seat of Itasca County. When we talk to visitors and ask them what they remember about Itasca County they almost always say that big, beautiful, historic building at the main intersection in Grand Rapids.

As a County we are not blessed with many historic buildings. Old Central School is one of the few remaining in our county. It is critical that we preserve and improve the building for all county residents. Itasca County fully supports the City of Grand Rapids request for funding from the Arts and Culture Heritage Fund.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Casey Venema', is written over the printed name.

Casey Venema

Board Chair

Itasca County

CC: Senator Justin Eichorn
Representative Ben Davis
Representative Spencer Igo