

DISTRICT 57 TOWN HALL MEETING

SENATOR GREG CLAUSEN
REPRESENTATIVE ANNA WILLS



MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

Senator Greg Clausen and Representative Anna Wills are working to authorize a state match of up to \$500 and an income tax subtraction of up to \$3,000 to implement a Minnesota tax incentive for a 529 College Savings Plan.

Both Clausen and Wills believe it is time we reinvest in our children's futures with a sound investment in Minnesota's 529 College Savings Plan. This plan provides incentives for families trying to save for future higher education expenses and it will bring down the cost of student college loan debt.

The 529 Savings Plan Grant is one way to bring down student debt and provide a tax break to families who are saving for college. There are no income limitations, and the plan allows the beneficiary to go to a public or private college or university, trade, or graduate school. The funds can be used for tuition, fees, books and supplies. (SF1443/HF1733 and SF502/HF521)

INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY

The Highway 52 Country Road 42 Interchange has consistently had accident rates higher than the Statewide average. Both the north and southbound 52 ramp intersections with 42 are 54% and 110% higher than the statewide average. These abnormally high rates can be decreased by removing visibility barriers and addressing constrained conditions. Senator

Clausen and Representative Wills have introduced two bills to address this issue. One would authorize \$2 million from the general fund to the commissioner of transportation for the city of Rosemount local share of the project. The other is a \$2 million bonding request. (SF103/HF216 and SF105/HF194)

Minnesota Zoo. Sen. Clausen and Rep. Wills are carrying two bills to help the Minnesota Zoo. One is \$34 million in bonding for infrastructure and the other is \$3.75 million for the Minnesota Zoological Board to provide access and education related programs. (SF108/HF205 and SF1412/HF1662)

Exemptions for Nonprofit Fundraising booths at county fairs. This bipartisan legislation authored by Clausen and Wills is aimed at assisting 4H groups and other non-profit organizations to maximize their fundraising efforts in order to support community based initiatives. (SF100/HF215)

New Construction on the Rosemount Family Resource Center. Clausen and Wills are requesting \$450,000 in bonding for a much-needed addition to the Rosemount Family Resource Center. This addition will house after-school tutoring, a food shelf, and other programs. (SF624/HF853)

Quiet Zone on the Bonaire Path. Currently, the crossing on Bonaire Path just east of Akron Avenue is outside the designated quiet zone and trains sound their horns at this location. Clausen and Wills have introduced two bills to design and construct a quiet zone at that noisy crossing. (SF590/HF852 and SF1686/HF1953)

Completion of the Mississippi River Trail. When completed, the Mississippi River Trail will extend 27 miles within Dakota County from Hastings to Saint Paul. The majority of the trail within Dakota County has been completed with the exception of connections in Rosemount and St. Paul. To help complete the trail in Rosemount, Sen. Clausen and Rep. Wills have requested \$2.5 million in bonding to add 2 miles of paved trail and construct underpass structures under the railroad tracks for pedestrian safety. (SF1328/HF1685)

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

Sen. Clausen and Rep. Wills introduced a bill this year to requiring greater transparency in automatically renewing contracts. Currently, some contracts will automatically renew if a consumer doesn't take a specific action to cancel the contract. This bill requires automatic renewal provisions to be clearly disclosed, with sellers giving written notice to the consumer before the contract is renewed. (SF230/HF515)

HONORING OUR HEROES

This Clausen/Wills legislation renames a segment County Road 46 (Brandel Drive) in the city of Coates as "Corporal Benjamin S. Kopp Bridge."

Corporal Benjamin Kopp was an Army Ranger who was on his third tour of duty when he was fatally injured on July 10, 2009. (SF589/HF745)

You can see all of the legislation introduced by Senator Clausen at and Representative Wills at: www.senate.mn and www.house.mn