



February 4, 2021

Representative Fue Lee
Chair, Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
485 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Lee:

Thank you for allowing the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to testify at the February 4, 2021 Capital Investment Committee hearing. We greatly appreciated having time on the agenda to share our comments regarding how the RRWMB is effectively implementing projects to work towards climate change and resiliency in the Red River Basin (RRB) of Minnesota.

The RRWMB works closely with several partners in the RRB including the Red River Basin Commission, Red River Retention Authority, and the Red River Joint Water Resource District which is our counterpart in North Dakota. In essence, our work in the RRB is a collaborative approach to working on climate resiliency and adaption. There are many opportunities for state agencies to partner with the RRWMB on the Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) and water quality projects that we are currently working on (factsheet and map attached from RRWMB testimony). The RRWMB welcomes partnerships so that our local tax levy dollars and state funds can be leveraged and used wisely.

There is a high need for bonding dollars for FDR projects across the State of Minnesota. Because the RRB has repetitive flood incidences, the RRWMB manages statewide efforts to obtain bonding dollars through the Flood Hazard Mitigation with the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts to ensure that all FDR projects in the state are represented. FDR projects are primarily funded with local tax dollars and through the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program that is managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

We look forward to continued dialogue on this matter. It would be the RRWMB's pleasure to schedule a time for a short meeting with you to further discuss our efforts in the RRB and how we coordinate with the DNR and other state agencies. I can be reached at 218-474-1084 (cell) or by email at rob.sip@rrwmb.org to further discuss. Thanks again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Sip".

Robert L. Sip
RRWMB Executive Director

CC: Jenny Nash
RRWMB Managers
Lisa Frenette, RRWMB Policy and Regulatory Liaison