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Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 1:15 PM
To: Jenny Nash <Jenny.Nash@house.mn>
Subject: Re: FW: 2/4 Cap Inv Hearing

Greetings Members of the Capital Investment Committee!

Thank-you Chair Lee for bringing testimony from the community to compliment the lens of equity access and participation in climate regeneration for capital investments.

I encourage you all to reimagine your definition of infrastructure to include the organic restructuring of the soil below the surface, remembering that we can correct the micro biological components of soil and add organisms, living fungal food and proper moisture to kick start nutrient cycle and deepen the living soil web's capacity to sequester carbon and methane. This approach underground and through building plans that use permeable surfaces and grey water and rainwater repurposing take your "infrastructure" beyond seeing environment as ornaments for set dressing as landscape "beautification".

The net positive applications for air, water and soil remediation that can occur through urban reforestation could easily be directly funded by capital investment.

Take for example the 104,000,000 dollars allocated in the past bonding bill to the DNR to serve public lands. While only 24% of Minnesota lands are public and 95% of those lands were given by the Federal Government, how do we operationalize "community "urban agro- reforestation on the other 75%? What percentage of the contracts signed by the DNR go to BIPOC contractors, does the Capital investment committee check that folks on the receiving end are following the chapter 16C law requiring 15% of contracts to be awarded to BIPOC and women contractors?

How much of the Department of Natural resources operate in Urban forestry?

How do you ensure that the government orgs receiving that money are trickling any benefit of that money at all to formerly redlines communities with the highest cumulative health impacts of the whole state?

Some helpful rallying calls;

stop burning and start planting.

Name it, frame It, and explain it

And if it is about us without us it is not for us (or affirmatively- if it is by us, with us , it is for us- Call employed to end Apartheid in South Africa).

If you can root your investments in the micro developers of our hyper-localized communities such as North Minneapolis, and Phillips who are working to bring forth renewable energy infrastructure on the roofs of our homes and any industrial businesses, assuring that those investments actually employ local folks, that makes a direct impact on the economic participation in renewable energy.

Are the infrastructures investments supporting agricultural shifts to organic soil remediation and requiring an end to chemical leachates that flow directly into our waters and storm drains? Remember the river runs through us in North Minneapolis as the Basset Creek Water shed is right up under our feet.

Can we use the last bonding session to ask how many formerly redlined communities were included in the 20 million dollars for Flood water mitigation?

In order to operate as a society,

1. we need to breathe..... clean air,
2. have access to clean water that is aided by net positive regenerative practices and projects
3. Have permeable surfaces embedded in road and building proposals
4. Support micro developers in our communities to reforest the other 75% of non-public lands
5. Support solar entrepreneurs requiring a minimum of 15% BIPOC because that is the law already
6. Support organic soil biology labs in North Minneapolis that will employ skilled apprentices at 25 dollars an hour to test, advise and consult urban agricultural efforts as well as soil REGEN projects in the five-state area.
7. Meet our hyper local communities need for fresh food and long-term provision of food through Agro forestry and much needed green houses with retractable roofs.
8. Support that organizational structures that distribute equity healthcare and food as medicine in our formerly redlined communities with low median incomes
9. Support the replacement of concrete with a “robustly” supported the Hempcrete infrastructure of the hemp planted and the production of permeable surface material to compliment the rain gardens tucked in around on ppp sectors of community.
10. Promote equitable access to urban reforestation resources,
11. Ask ourselves how 20,000 acres of easements that are not serving the Commons and may be utilized to extract wealth and are they serving the People and the Commons?
12. Reinstate the 29 access points to mineral water by renovating the antiquated lead containing pipes that access that water.
13. Ensure that State dollars are not supporting the sale of our mineral water for private bottlers economic extraction at the same time that the public access to this rich resource is cut off
14. Support Mobile Solar Power Generation for Disaster relief services that double as solar learning labs and soil testing labs
15. Repurposing of empty commercial properties to house the unhoused
16. Fund projects that populate every roof top with green roofs and tree planting on every balcony
17. Projects that Re-forest the riparian Buffers of the Mississippi River Banks
18. Projects that build 48 acres and a school with Regenerative housing and agriculture to model our care for every community downstream of us depending on the Mississippi watershed.
19. Fund projects that address the organizational structures in agriculture that “own” seeds and stop allocating public dollars that perpetuate this environmental injustice

This year also marks the first joint meeting of the North and South side Green Zones in Minneapolis.

Such a pleasure to see a joint meeting of Climate and Capital investments. One can either support or decimate the other if silos and blinders are used to “stay in our lanes” perpetuating the negative feedback loop of our behaviors. Not to mention the negative feedback that is occurring right now at the polar cap.

Your permaculture lens and discernment will reveal that we do not function as individuals as your allocation of capital funds attests to in its very essence.

We have the will and passion to turn this thing around in that name of the first wealth, our health and ability to survive.

Thank-you

Erika Schlaeger dos Santos
The Family of Trees
Mitig Nation (Mitig means tree in Ojibwe)