



# Minnesota House of Representatives

April 24, 2017

Governor Mark Dayton  
Lt. Governor Tina Smith  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith,

Included in the Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance Bill is a provision that says if a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment system upgrades to comply with new or modified effluent limits then that facility will not have to upgrade to meet any new standards for sixteen years. Upgrades should be based on public health. Sixteen years is not a public health criteria. We are writing to ask you to firmly reject this provision.

The attached map shows that there are 203 municipal wastewater treatment systems and 147 industrial wastewater treatment systems in the upper Mississippi River Basin, the drinking water source for over a million Minnesotans. It is simply unsafe and unfair to ask those who drink the water to either ignore evolving drinking water and wastewater treatment system standards or clean up contaminants that others created. Moreover, we have helped other communities with the costs of upgrading wastewater facilities and are committed to continuing that support.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency recently reported that pharmaceuticals and other chemicals are now found in our rivers and streams.<sup>1</sup> PCA further reported that these chemicals are having a measurable effect on fish exposed to them. PCA's study is just one of many looking at the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals.

The attached map that was included in PCA's random study shows a concentration of these chemicals at the mouth of the Crow River. Non-partisan staff estimates that it is less than 20 miles between the confluence of the Crow and Mississippi Rivers and the drinking water intakes for Minneapolis, St. Paul and the many suburbs that these cities serve. There are similar concentrations north of St. Cloud.

Unfortunately, our Minnesota Department of Health testing of source water has been very limited so there is no data to indicate the concentrations of pharmaceuticals and other chemicals

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<sup>1</sup> Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. *Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals of Concern in Rivers: Occurrence and Biological Effects* (October 2016).



in the Mississippi north of drinking water intakes. However, after its study, PCA was able to state that "most of the state's surface water is contaminated to some degree by PPCPs (pharmaceuticals and personal care products) and chemicals of commercial or industrial application."<sup>2</sup>

It should go without saying that Minnesota law should not preclude upgrades to waste water treatment systems. Minnesota parents do not want their children drinking someone else's prescription.

Thank you for your attention to the safety of our drinking water.

Respectfully yours,



Jean Wagenius  
State Representative



Frank Hornstein  
State Representative



Alice Hausman  
State Representative



Paul Thissen  
State Representative



Raymond Dehn  
State Representative



Fae Lee  
State Representative



Dave Pinto  
State Representative



Rick Hansen  
State Representative




Erin Murphy  
State Representative



Tim Mahoney  
State Representative



Sheldon Johnson  
State Representative



Leon Lillie  
State Representative

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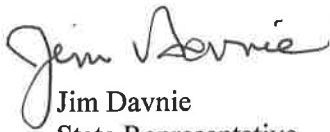
<sup>2</sup> Ibid, *Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals of Concern in Rivers: Occurrence and Biological Effects* (October 2016), 9.



Diane Loeffler  
State Representative



Connie Bernardy  
State Representative



Jim Davnie  
State Representative



Jamie Becker-Finn  
State Representative



Mike Freiberg  
State Representative



Linda Slocum  
State Representative



Ilhan Omar  
State Representative



Susan Allen  
State Representative



Andrew Carlson  
State Representative



Carlos Mariani  
State Representative



Karen Clark  
State Representative



John Lesch  
State Representative



Lyndon Carlson  
State Representative



Mary Kunesk-Podein  
State Representative

Encl.: Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals of Concern in Rivers: Number of Chemicals Detected  
Wastewater Facilities by Type Statewide and Upstream from the Twin Cities

Cc: Commissioner Ehlinger, MDH  
Commissioner Stine, MPCA