

Appendix M: Letter from University of Minnesota Morris Student Association President

On the next page is a scanned image of a letter submitted by Samuel Rosemark, University of Minnesota – Morris Campus Student Association President. This letter was submitted during the LCCMR Site Visit to the University of Minnesota – Morris in September. Since the scanned image is not accessible, the text of the letter is reproduced below:

University of Minnesota
Morris Campus
Morris Campus Student Association
600 East 4th Street
Morris, MN 56267-2132
320-589-6086
www.morris.umn.edu/mcsa
umnmsca@morris.umn.us

September 11th, 2019

Dear member of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources,

The University of Minnesota Morris is a top environmental school and leader in sustainability within the State of Minnesota and across the country. UMN Morris was ranked number one in Minnesota by the Sierra Club and produces the most renewable electricity on-campus per student in the United States. We have wind turbines, a biomass plant, a cold-weather composting program across campus, LEED certified buildings, electric bikes, and multiple solar arrays with plans to build another array soon.

We lead in sustainability because we have to, this generation has to. Many UMN Morris students have an Environmental Science major, Environmental Studies major, or a Sustainability major. A 2006 Chronicle of Higher Education article titled, “Sustainability: the Ultimate Liberal Art” exemplified this. In it, it explains that the liberal arts give students the necessary problem solving skills and holistic education they need to lead in sustainability. Leaders in sustainability are being developed here. With this land belonging to Dakota and Anishinaabe people, a Native American proverb best explains how we need to view our environment: “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”

Where do we, the students and young people, want to see MN ENRTF funds going? 1) We want to see continued investments in renewable energy in order to slow climate change. 25% in renewable energy is not enough in Minnesota if we want to make a true impact. 2) Waste reduction and recycling should be a higher priority as methane is much more potent than carbon dioxide and thus has a larger effect on our climate. Less trash and waste means less methane. Minnesota should follow the lead of UMN Morris and Hennepin County as they both are working to compost high levels of food waste. The 2019 Environment and Energy Report Card by the Minnesota Environment Quality Board lists Minnesota’s recycling as “poor.” 3) Greener transit should also be a priority. The report by the MN EQB also listed transit as “poor.” Rural transit options, such as electric buses and vehicles, would benefit rural communities and the environment. 4) Minnesota is the “Land of 10,000 Lakes” but the level of nitrates in our water is ranked by the MN EQB in the report card as “poor.” Our water is a precious resource that needs to be cared for and protected.

Lastly, we know the climate is changing and we have the means to slow or even reverse that regardless if it is human caused or not. We should use our means to do that, not only for us, but for our children and the generations to come.

We, the UMN Morris students, are grateful for your visit and thank you for coming to our campus.

[Signature]

Samuel Rosemark
President
Morris Campus Student Association

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Samuel Rosemark
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