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From: Emily Dick <edick@PLSLWD.ORG>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 4:30 PM
To: sen.foung.hawj@senate.mn; Rep. Rick Hansen; Rep. Joshua Heintzeman; Rep. Athena Hollins; Rep. Jeff Backer; sen.kelly.morrison@senate.mn; sen.steve.green@senate.mn; Rep. Patty Acomb; sen.aric.putman@senate.mn; Sen.torrey.westrom@senate.mn; Lisa Bigaouette; Mike Campana; Tom Dietrich; Noah Fribley; Diana Griffith; Becca Nash; Michael Varien
Cc: Joni Giese; Jan Alswager
Subject: Prior Lake Outlet Pipelining Project Urgency

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Dear LCCMR Committee Members and Staff,

I wanted to write to express the urgency and importance of our pending LCCMR application for the Prior Lake Outlet Pipelining project. The Prior Lake Outlet Pipelining protects critical flood reduction infrastructure needed to maintain water quality, public access and recreation to Prior Lake, the second most utilized lake in the Minneapolis-St Paul metropolitan area.

This project ties deeply to the LCCMR mission to *“protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's "air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources" for the benefit of current citizens and future generations.”*

The Prior Lake Outlet pipelining prevents the collapse of the only outlet in a naturally landlocked watershed for 40,000 residents and 42 square miles. This critical pipe has prevented 11 floods in its 33 years of existence, preserving riparian habitat, access and recreation on Prior Lake and Spring Lake.

The pipe is reaching the end of its service life and is regularly video-monitored. The latest video showed the pipe is heavily worn, cracked, and leaking. The pipe needs to be lined before its collapse, because full replacement is not feasible due to its depth and its close proximity to houses, infrastructure and natural resources.

The Prior Lake area experienced extreme flooding in 2014, with no wake restrictions for the majority of the summer, and flooding of over 130 sewer manholes which could dangerously pollute our waters. The 2014 flood raised the elevation of Prior Lake six-feet. Without the Prior Lake Outlet pipe, the 2014 flood would have risen twice as high.

The time to act is now, before pipe collapse and future flooding. A public investment in the Prior Lake Outlet lining would save the state, local government units, public utilities, and others significantly more than 10s of millions of dollars in retroactive response should the pipe collapse.

We so appreciate your careful review and would be happy to answer any questions.

Emily Dick

Emily Dick

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