



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting  
Wednesday, October 21, 2020

### **Agenda Item**

**Item 4. D. - Receive and file response to LMRWD letter regarding passage of a bonding bill from Speaker of the House Representative Melissa Hortman**

### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

### **Summary**

The LMRWD received a response from Speaker of the House, Representative Melissa Hortman. The response was to a letter the LMRWD Board sent to legislative leaders September 9, 2020. The Board should make a motion to receive and file the response.

### **Attachments**

Email from Speaker of the House Representative Melissa Hortman

### **Recommended Action**

Motion to receive and file response from Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman



Linda Loomis <naiadconsulting@gmail.com>

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## RE: Letter in Support of a Bonding Bill

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**Melissa Hortman** <Rep.Melissa.Hortman@house.mn>

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 12:48 PM

To: Lisa Frenette <frenettela@gmail.com>, "naiadconsulting@gmail.com" <naiadconsulting@gmail.com>, "Laurenrsalvato@gmail.com" <Laurenrsalvato@gmail.com>, "dave.raby@aol.com" <dave.raby@aol.com>, "adamfrey@comcast.net" <adamfrey@comcast.net>, "jessehartmann@hotmail.com" <jesehartmann@hotmail.com>

Dear Ms. Loomis and Board Members:

Thank you for your letter urging the Minnesota Legislature to pass a bonding bill. I agree that we must pass a bonding bill that creates jobs, stimulates local economies and addresses the state's critical infrastructure needs.

Under my leadership, the Minnesota House of Representatives has worked successfully with the Governor's office, the Republican majority in the Senate, and the DFL minority in the Senate to reach an agreement on a bonding bill that would make investments throughout Minnesota. The Republican minority in the House has so far refused to vote for a bonding bill unless the Governor gives up his use of emergency powers to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. I am disappointed that House Republicans have tied a completely unrelated issue to the bonding bill.

I hope in the coming days House Republicans will recognize the importance of these investments for their communities and agree to vote for a bonding bill despite their ongoing, unrelated disagreement with Governor Walz over his management of Minnesota's response to the pandemic. Governor Walz, like 49 of 50 governors in the country, has found it necessary to use emergency powers authorized in state law as he manages Minnesota's response to the pandemic.

Over the past two years, Chair Mary Murphy and members of the House Capital Investment Committee have considered over \$5 billion worth of projects and have had to make difficult decisions throughout negotiations with the Senate GOP which have advocated for a much smaller bill than the House DFL supports. I appreciate hearing about the ongoing need for sediment removal and flood mitigation along the Minnesota River and recognize that maintaining the Navigation Channel is critically important to our global economy. I'll keep this project in mind as we work out the final version of the bill.

Again, thank you for reaching out.

Sincerely,

**Melissa Hortman**  
Speaker of the House  
State Representative, District 36B  
463 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
tel 651 296 4280  
Legislative Assistant: Haley Cobb

tel 651 296 7142