



Goodhue County Board of Commissioners  
509 West 5th Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

March 18, 2025

To whom it may concern,

The Goodhue County Board of Commissioners supports a federal funding request for the creation of a North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District (NZSSD) and the construction of a new wastewater facility to serve the cities of Goodhue, Pine Island, Wanamingo, and Zumbrota and the Prairie Island Indian Community.

Currently, the communities rely on four separate facilities which face a variety of challenges.

- **Aging Facilities:** Each community has aging infrastructure and is confronted with increasingly stringent discharge rules. Significant investments and replacement will be required to address the challenges at each facility and ensure compliance with these evolving standards.
- **Lack of Economy of Scale:** Each facility operates independently without the benefit of a shared infrastructure and personnel. Our communities would be better served by taking advantage of the efficiencies and cost savings of a single treatment facility.
- **Limited Space for Expansion:** The facilities have little to no space for expansion, which presents a significant challenge in accommodating growth and updating/replacing outdated equipment.
- **Multiple Points of Discharge into the Zumbro River:** Currently, four discharge points means costlier testing and monitoring and a greater overall environmental impact.
- **Floodplain Location:** Facilities are located within the floodplain, creating additional risk of damage and waste discharge due to flooding during extreme weather events.
- **Limited Growth Potential:** These factors have placed a ceiling on the potential for growth within our communities, limiting our ability to attract new residents, businesses, and investment.

A new regional facility offers a fiscally responsible solution to addressing these challenges. Consolidating operations will save taxpayers an estimated \$12 million in construction costs compared to addressing the condition of the four separate city plants. The financial benefits continue with projected operational and maintenance savings of \$1 million annually over the next 40 years. In addition to being a sound financial decision, this project serves as a model of regional collaboration, optimizing the delivery of high-quality services in a more efficient and sustainable manner.

We are grateful for your consideration of this critical project for our communities and county.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Anderson".

Brad Anderson, Chair  
Goodhue County Board of Commissioners