



**Steve Gander
State Representative
District 1B**

**Minnesota House
of Representatives**

**Proudly serving the Counties
Of Polk, Norman, Red Lake and Clay**

March 11, 2026

Steve Gander
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Red Lake Falls Water System Rehabilitation

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the City of Red Lake Falls' request for funds to rehabilitate critical utility infrastructure and reconstruct associated streets, curbs, and gutters.

The City maintains more than 16 miles of water main, nearly 11 miles of gravity sanitary sewer, and approximately 3 miles of sanitary force main. Much of this infrastructure was installed decades ago and has exceeded its useful life, with some more than 70 years old. These aging systems have resulted in increasing failures, excessive infiltration and inflow into the wastewater collection system. There are also water distribution lines that are undersized and lack redundancy, which means that any failure puts residents needlessly without service. Continued deterioration threatens system reliability and increases future maintenance costs.

In 2023, the City invested over \$1,000,000 to rehabilitate its water tower after it deteriorated to the point that repairs could no longer be delayed. While this investment demonstrates the City's commitment to maintaining essential infrastructure, it also depleted their reserves to address additional large-scale improvements. The community has a high population of elderly residents on fixed incomes, and local taxes have historically been higher than those in surrounding communities, making it difficult for residents to absorb additional debt or assessments.

This project will replace aging utilities, improve water and wastewater system reliability, reduce costly emergency repairs, and protect public health. These improvements are essential to maintaining safe and dependable infrastructure for residents, businesses, and future growth in Red Lake Falls.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Gander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Steve Gander
State Representative
District 1B