

Senator Mark Johnson
District 1

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SENATE
State of Minnesota

March 10, 2026

Re: Red Lake Falls Water System Rehabilitation

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of 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 utilities more than 70 years old. These aging systems have resulted in increasing pipe failures and excessive infiltration and inflow into the wastewater collection system. Water distribution lines are also undersized and lack redundancy. Continued deterioration threatens system reliability and increases maintenance costs for the city.

In 2023, the City invested more than \$1,000,000 to rehabilitate its water tower after its condition deteriorated to the point that repairs could no longer be delayed. While this investment demonstrates the City's commitment to maintaining essential infrastructure, Red Lake Falls has limited financial capacity 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 "Mark Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Johnson
Minnesota State Senator
District 1