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## Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

April 10, 2023

**RE: Support for Itasca County Integrated Regional Waste Processing, Recycling and Mixed Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Disposal Campus**

To Whom It May Concern:

We write to you today urging your support for funding the proposed Regional Waste Processing, Recycling, and Mixed Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Disposal Campus project in Itasca County (H.F. 3178 and S.F. 1841).

The Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) provides wastewater and solid waste services and oversight for a 530 square mile region. Currently, the District annually sends approximately 90,000 tons of MSW generated throughout northeast Minnesota to the Moccasin Mike Landfill in Superior, Wisconsin. The landfill is nearing its end of life and by mid-2026, WLSSD will require a new land disposal site to accept solid waste from throughout our northeast region.

WLSSD and the seven counties in northeast Minnesota are currently collaborating to finalize a Regional Solid Waste Management Plan for submittal to the MPCA in May 2023. This draft Plan supports the development of two MSW landfills to serve the long-term needs of the northeast region. The Keewatin facility has been identified in the draft Plan as one of these long-term MSW management opportunities for the region and has importance in providing a long-term and environmentally sound solution incorporating solid waste and recyclable materials processing with land disposal.

Currently, \$20.0 million is being sought to support the construction of this new processing and recycling campus including a mixed municipal solid waste landfill in the city of Keewatin. We encourage your support for this Itasca County funding request. WLSSD and the counties of northeast Minnesota are dependent on projects such as this one to ensure the responsible management and disposal of solid waste into the future.

Sincerely,

Marianne Bohren  
Executive Director