

Bobbie Harder
State Representative
District 17B
Sibley, Carver, McLeod Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

March 20, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my support for the City of New Germany's request of \$5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for the necessary improvements to their wastewater treatment plant. These funds would make it possible for the City to complete the upgrades needed to allow for further commercial and residential development in their community.

The situation in New Germany is very challenging; the city has a population of only 466 people and undertook an \$11 million wastewater treatment plant improvement project less than a decade ago. While some of the issues were addressed through that project, there is no additional capacity at the plant, and it left the community with by far the highest utility rates in the area. The community still owes approximately \$7 million in debt for the past project and the City has no capacity to take on any additional debt to increase capacity at the plant, which would in turn add users to the plant and decrease the per month utility charges for existing residents. To put things in perspective, the average monthly sewer cost for a family of four is \$250 to \$300, whereas most communities in the area average around \$52.15 for their monthly sewer cost. New Germany has the lowest median household income of the cities within Carver County and is at only about 90% of the median household income for the United States.

The homes in New Germany are affordable in comparison to most locations within the Minnesota-St. Paul region and there is high demand for affordable homes. The City of New Germany has numerous lots available and has developers ready to begin construction once the treatment plant can be expanded. There are currently 182 households in New Germany and that number is expected to almost double to 354 households by 2044. Not only will the project allow for construction of affordable homes, but it will also open opportunities for commercial uses within the city as well. The additional homes and businesses will greatly benefit the New Germany community and help to make the utility rates more affordable for everyone.

The city has worked proactively to address the issue but is not able to tackle it on their own. For all the reasons mentioned, I have sponsored a bill that would allocate state bond funding for this project. The funds would be used to match the Congressionally Directed Spending funds and would allow the project to proceed. I appreciate your full consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bobbie Harder".

Representative Bobbie Harder
Minnesota State Representative 17B





Office of County Commissioners
Carver County Government Center
Human Services Building
602 East Fourth Street
Chaska, MN 55318-1202
Phone: 952 361-1510
Fax: 952 361-1581

March 17, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in strong support of the City of New Germany's request of \$5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for their wastewater treatment plant project.

Carver County is one of the fastest growing counties in Minnesota and there is a high demand for affordable housing within our County. While the City of New Germany has taken steps to upgrade their treatment plant in the past to facilitate the development of homes and industries within their community, there are currently only 182 households. As a result, due to the expense of the necessary treatment plant upgrades, the City has been unable to move forward with development.

This project would allow the City of New Germany to complete the needed upgrades for residential development at an affordable price point and allow for future commercial developments. There are several shovel ready lots available within the City and developers are ready to begin construction after the wastewater treatment plant project is complete.

For future and current City of New Germany and County residents, the County of Carver believes this is a critical need and respectfully requests the approval of this funding request.

Thank you in advance for your full support.

Sincerely,

John P. Fahey, Chair
Carver County Board of Commissioners



March 19, 2023

City of New Germany
300 Broadway St E
New Germany, MN 55367

RE: City of New Germany Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Mayor Van Lith,

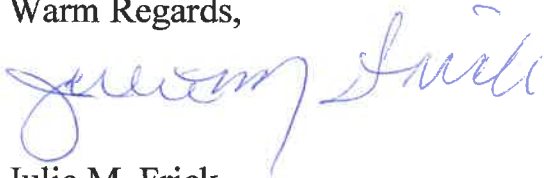
The Carver County Community Development Agency (CDA) strongly supports the City of New Germany's request for funding of their wastewater treatment plant project, which will allow for the development of much-needed housing in Carver County. Carver County CDA's mission is to provide affordable housing opportunities and foster economic and community development in Carver County, which is one of the fastest growing counties in Minnesota and is facing a critical shortage of affordable homes.

The City of New Germany has taken numerous steps to facilitate the development of additional homes and industries within their community but have encountered a major roadblock in being able to allow development to occur due to the expense of the necessary treatment plant upgrades. There are numerous shovel-ready lots available, and development of homes will be able to proceed once the improvement project occurs. Carver County is facing a significant amount of development pressure and the City of New Germany's project will help to meet the need. Not only are the properties shovel-ready, but there are also developers ready to begin construction once the wastewater treatment plant improvements are made.

Even more importantly, the homes will be at a much more affordable price point in comparison to many of the homes being sold and constructed elsewhere in Carver County. These affordable homes will assist many families who are otherwise being priced out of the market.

Carver County CDA sees this as a critical need, both for current and future residents of New Germany, and would encourage the approval of funding for this project.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie M. Frick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "F".

Julie M. Frick
Executive Director