



March 17, 2026

Honorable Congressman Tom Emmer  
Washington DC Office  
326 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Emmer:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Cokato's request for \$4,500,000 in federal funding to construct approximately 6,000 lineal feet of new watermain and 10,000 lineal feet of sewer line along the US Highway 12 corridor in Wright County, Minnesota, within Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. This essential infrastructure project will replace and relocate aging sewer infrastructure currently serving Dassel-Cokato High School, which suffers from significant inflow and infiltration issues due to its location across open fields, complicating maintenance and increasing costs. Relocating the sewer line closer to Highway 12 will enhance accessibility, reliability, and long-term efficiency. The project will also extend reliable, environmentally sound public water and sewer services to existing businesses and residences along the corridor that currently depend on private wells and septic systems.

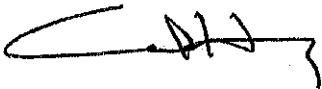
Property owners have expressed strong interest in connecting to municipal utilities, which will reduce risks of groundwater contamination, protect public health, and improve overall quality of life. Critically, this investment will catalyze substantial economic development along the Highway 12 corridor—a vital transportation artery in central Minnesota. Recent MnDOT improvements to Highway 12 (including resurfacing, concrete repairs, and accessibility upgrades completed or nearing completion from Litchfield to Cokato) have already enhanced safety, drainage, and mobility in the area, setting the stage for growth. Providing modern utility infrastructure will remove a key barrier to further development, enabling:

- Attraction of new commercial and industrial businesses drawn to improved access and services along this high-traffic corridor;
- Support for residential growth to accommodate workforce needs and population trends in the Dassel-Cokato region;

- Job creation through construction, ongoing maintenance, and new business operations;
- Increased tax base and local revenue to fund community services; and
- Alignment with broader regional priorities for sustainable rural economic vitality.

The City has demonstrated robust local commitment through planning, community outreach, and coordination with regional partners. I respectfully urge you to give full and favorable consideration to the City of Cokato's application for the requested \$4,500,000 appropriation or grant award. This targeted funding would deliver lasting benefits to constituents in Cokato and the surrounding Sixth District by fostering economic growth, enhancing infrastructure resilience, and supporting vibrant rural communities. Thank you for your attention to this priority matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Harju', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carl Harju  
City of Cokato Mayor



## Dassel - Cokato School District #466

4852 Reardon Ave. SW, Suite 1700 ■ Cokato, MN 55321 ■ 320-286-4100 ■ [www.isd466.org](http://www.isd466.org)

March 17th, 2026

Congressmen Tom Emmer  
326 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Tom Emmer and Members of Congress,

I am writing on behalf of Dassel-Cokato Public Schools to express our strong support for the City of Cokato's request for federal Community Project Funding for the West Sewer and Water Main Extension Project.

This project represents an important investment in the long-term infrastructure of our community and will have direct benefits for our school district, local businesses, and residents. One key component of the project is the relocation and replacement of the existing sewer line serving Dassel-Cokato High School. The current sewer line runs across a field and has experienced significant inflow and infiltration over time, creating maintenance challenges and long-term reliability concerns. Relocating the sewer line closer to the Highway 12 corridor will greatly improve access for maintenance and strengthen the reliability of this critical infrastructure serving our school.

Beyond the direct benefits to our district, the project will also extend municipal water and sewer services along the Highway 12 corridor. This investment will support responsible economic development, improve environmental stewardship by reducing reliance on individual wells and septic systems, and create opportunities for future residential and commercial growth in the region.

Strong communities depend on reliable infrastructure. The City of Cokato's proposal addresses both current infrastructure needs and the future development of our area in a thoughtful and fiscally responsible way. The project leverages local investment and utility funding while seeking federal partnership to complete a project that will benefit the broader region for decades.

For these reasons, Dassel-Cokato Public Schools strongly supports the City of Cokato's request for federal funding for the West Sewer and Water Main Extension Project. We appreciate your continued support of infrastructure investments that strengthen rural communities and the schools that serve them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Raymond  
Superintendent of Dassel-Cokato Public Schools