



March 16, 2026

Office of Congressman Tom Emmer  
Attn: Stacy Morse  
464 Independence Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20003

**RE: City of Cologne, MN - Wastewater Treatment Facility Project**

Dear Congressman Emmer:

The City of Cologne is well-positioned for significant growth. With our location in Carver County and the recent upgrade to Highway 212, Cologne's population is projected to increase substantially over the next decade. Unfortunately, our existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is unable to accommodate this growth. The new limits issued under our most recent National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit have made it increasingly difficult for the City to meet phosphorus requirements, and as a result, Cologne has been forced to restrict additional development until critical improvements can be completed.

In addition to these regulatory challenges, the current WWTF—now more than 25 years old—has become difficult and costly to maintain. Aging infrastructure, equipment failures, and escalating maintenance needs underscore the urgency of replacing key components of the system to ensure reliable, long-term operation.

The proposed improvements include construction of a new pretreatment system, activated sludge treatment process, clarifier, filtration system, disinfection system, and other necessary repairs. These upgrades will provide the capacity needed to meet current and future effluent limits, accommodate expected population growth, and ensure consistent regulatory compliance. Importantly, the project will improve the quality of water discharged into Benton Lake, Carver Creek, and the Minnesota River—downstream resources that are currently impaired and in need of greater protection.

The project will be constructed on the existing WWTF site, which has adequate space to accommodate the proposed improvements. Design is complete, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has certified the project. At this stage, the only remaining obstacle to moving forward is securing the necessary funding. Therefore, on behalf of the residents of Cologne, I strongly request your support for federal assistance to advance this vital infrastructure project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information. We greatly appreciate your consideration and continued support for the City of Cologne.

Sincerely,

**Matt Lein**

City of Cologne  
Mayor, City of Cologne  
1211 Village Parkway  
PO Box 120  
Cologne, MN 55322

Phone: 952-466-2064  
Web: [www.colognemn.com](http://www.colognemn.com)

**Jim Nash**  
State Representative 48A



# Minnesota House of Representatives

March 17, 2026

Office of Congressman Tom Emmer  
464 Independence Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20003

## **RE: Support for City of Cologne, Minnesota – Wastewater Treatment Facility Project**

Dear Congressman Emmer:

As a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Cologne's wastewater treatment facility improvement project and to respectfully request your assistance in securing federal funding to advance this critical infrastructure investment.

Cologne is a growing community in Carver County, positioned along the recently improved Highway 212 corridor. Regional forecasts show that the city is poised for substantial population growth over the coming decade. However, this growth cannot occur without significant upgrades to the city's existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF).

Cologne's current WWTF is more than 25 years old and is no longer able to meet the treatment and capacity requirements necessary to support future development. Recent revisions to the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit have established more stringent phosphorus limits — limits that the aging facility struggles to achieve reliably. As a result, Cologne has been forced to restrict or delay new development until essential improvements are completed.

Operational challenges further underscore the urgency of this project. Aging infrastructure, equipment failures, and escalating maintenance expenses have created an unsustainable burden on the City and its residents. Without timely reinvestment, system reliability and regulatory compliance remain at risk.

The proposed improvements address these challenges directly. The project includes construction of a new pretreatment system, activated sludge treatment process, clarifier, filtration system, disinfection system, and other critical repairs. These upgrades will:

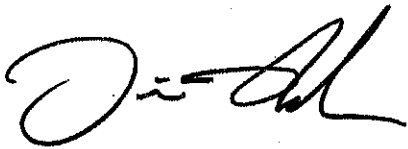
- Provide sufficient capacity to meet current and future effluent limits,
- Support expected population and economic growth, and
- Improve water quality in Benton Lake, Carver Creek, and the Minnesota River—downstream resources that are already impaired and require enhanced protection.

Design for the project is complete, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has certified it, and the existing city-owned WWTF site has adequate space/land for the planned improvements. The only remaining hurdle is securing the necessary capital investment.

Given the regional significance of this project, the regulatory requirements driving its need, and the substantial community and environmental benefits it will yield, I respectfully urge your support for federal funding to ensure the project can move forward without delay.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued partnership in strengthening the infrastructure and economic vitality of our communities. Please feel free to reach out if you would like additional information or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Nash", written in a cursive style.

Representative Jim Nash  
District 48A  
Republican Whip  
Chair State Government and Finance

CITY OF COLOGNE

RESOLUTION NO. 25-13  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A 2026 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST TO  
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA FOR A WASTEWATER TREATMENT  
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

WHEREAS, under the provisions contained in Minnesota Statutes 16A.86, Subd. 3a (6) sets out the process by which local governments and political subdivisions may request state appropriations for capital improvement projects. The Governor and Legislature will consider these bonding requests in the 2026 session; and,

WHEREAS, Local governments should submit their capital budget requests to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) by June.13, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cologne proposes a Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project and has identified a substantial need for State financial assistance in addition to funding from the City which meets or exceeds the state funding; and,

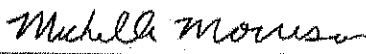
WHEREAS, the City of Cologne has the legal authority to apply for Capital Budget assistance, and has the financial, technical, and managerial capacity to ensure proper construction, operation and maintenance of the project for its design life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Cologne is authorized to submit the necessary 2026 Capital Budget application and information to the Minnesota Management and Budget Office.

Adopted by the City Council this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Lein, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Morrison  
City Administrator/ City Clerk

Motion/ Bowers

Second/ Szaroletta

Lein yes Szaroletta yes Bowers yes

Bruss absent Olson absent