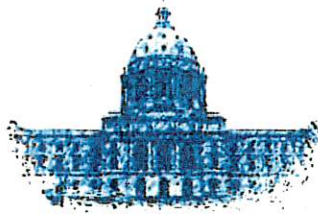


Bernie Perryman

State Representative

District 14A

Proudly serving the Cities of
St. Augusta, St. Cloud, St. Joseph
St. Joseph Township and Waite Park



**Minnesota
House of
Representatives**

February 27, 2026

Re: St. Augusta Water System Improvement Project

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of St. Augusta's Water System Improvements Project. This project is critical for a sustainable, cost-effective, and reliable water supply for the growing community.

For the past 20 years, St. Augusta has relied on St. Cloud, MN for its water supply. However, this arrangement is no longer viable, as it has led to operational challenges, pressure fluctuations, and a lack of redundancy for residents in the southern portion of the city. Additionally, with the city's population projected to grow to 4,500 by 2040, the need for an independent and resilient water system has become increasingly urgent.

To address these issues, St. Augusta is proposing a comprehensive water system improvement project that includes the construction of two new supply wells, a water treatment plant, a 250,000-gallon storage tower, and the necessary water mains to connect these facilities. This project will not only ensure safe and reliable drinking water for residents but also support continued economic growth and private investment in the region.

The total project cost is estimated at \$19,766,500 million. Given the financial burden on the city, securing federal funding is essential to making this project a reality. I urge your support in helping St. Augusta develop a long-term, independent water system that meets the needs of both current and future residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernie Perryman".

Bernie Perryman
State House Representative
District 14A



SENATOR ARIC PUTNAM
3215 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155
Office Phone: (651) 296-6455
E-mail: sen.aric.putnam@senate.mn



Senate
State of Minnesota

February 27, 2026

I write to express my strong support for the City of St. Augusta's Water System Improvements Project. This project is critical for a sustainable, cost-effective, and reliable water supply for St. Augusta, a thriving and growing community.

For the past 20 years, St. Augusta has had to be dependent on the city of St. Cloud, MN for its water supply. As challenging as this arrangement has been, it is no longer viable, as it has led to operational challenges, pressure fluctuations, and a lack of redundancy for residents in the southern portion of the city. Additionally, with the city's population projected to grow close to 25% by 2040, the need for an independent and resilient water system is urgent.

To address this crisis, St. Augusta is proposing a comprehensive water system improvement project that includes the construction of two new supply wells, a water treatment plant, a 250,000-gallon storage tower, and the necessary water mains to connect these facilities. This project will not only ensure safe and reliable drinking water for residents but also support continued economic growth and private investment in the region.

The total project cost is estimated at \$19,766,500 million. Given the financial burden on the city, securing federal funding is essential to making this project a reality. I urge your support in helping St. Augusta develop a long-term, independent water system that meets the needs of both current and future residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aric Putnam".

Senator Aric Putnam

Jeff Schmitz
Mayor, City of St. Augusta

March 17, 2026

Re: St. Augusta Water System Improvement Project

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the City of St. Augusta's Water System Improvement Project. This project will not only benefit our community but also support the needs of surrounding cities. It will ensure reliable access to clean, high-quality water for our residents and neighboring communities, while also supporting future commercial growth.

Residential demand for water continues to rise, especially as concerns about PFAS contamination and water quality increase across the region. Our goal is to provide safe, sustainable drinking water with no health risks. St. Augusta is a growing city, with an average of 25 to 35 new homes built each year, and we expect this pace to continue. The project will help us meet that increasing residential demand while also supporting the city's long-term growth.

A dependable water system is also essential for commercial and industrial development, particularly for fire suppression and manufacturing needs. St. Augusta has identified significant opportunities for commercial expansion, and this infrastructure improvement will strengthen our ability to attract and support new businesses.

St. Augusta has always been a financially responsible community. We would not be requesting funding if it were not absolutely necessary. The initial funds we are seeking will be used for additional planning and research to ensure a sound and cost-effective investment. We have identified two well sites and want to confirm their optimal placement and long-term viability. This project will also enable us to assist neighboring cities, including Rockville and Waite Park, when needed. For more than 20 years, St. Augusta has purchased water from St. Cloud; establishing our own system will provide greater self-sufficiency and reliability for our growing population. As part of this plan, we intend to construct a 250,000-gallon water tower to maintain adequate pressure and flow during periods of high demand.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Jeff Schmitz
Mayor, City of St. Augusta

Wayne Jandik
22415 State Highway 15
Saint Augusta, MN 56301

March 16, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my strong desire to get financial support implemented for the Saint Augusta Water System Improvement Project. This project has been discussed for years all for naught not because of a lack or need or desire but because of a lack of funding. This community continues to grow (albeit at a slower pace than would be appreciated) and is the city in the closest proximity to Saint Cloud with the desire to grow. We have vibrant new city leadership in our mayor that would like to see that growth to fruition.

The Water System Project would be the largest single kick-start to that growth and is currently the largest single impediment to that same growth. I was on our city planning commission years ago when we realized even then we needed our own Water Project to help fuel growth. We relied upon (and still do) the Saint Cloud municipal system for our water supply in part of the city. I hear of constant and consistent issues with the current system including pressure fluctuations reported by residents and operational challenges reported by area leadership. Saint Augusta simply cannot grow with the Saint Cloud municipal system and Saint Cloud can not expand its service to meet our needs.

At Saint Augusta's western side the Highway 15 corridor runs south through Saint Augusta from Saint Cloud. This corridor is ripe for development and investment but for the lack of a water source. I own a fair amount of land in this city and in fairness of disclosure have some frontage along Highway 15 just south of Interstate 94. I continue to use my land strictly for agriculture but could envision development if a central water source were available. With financial help to build out a central water system the revenue would come back to the state, regional, and local area in spades from increased property tax from organized, sequential growth. As part owner of several multi-family use projects I can also safely say there would be extreme interest in multi-family housing buildout in this area as well as higher density residential development. Both are only possible with a central water system. Current residents will tell you Saint Augusta is a quick commute to Saint Cloud with the openness of a more rural setting resulting in a win/win location. With the systematic growth of a local population even more local business could be supported and Saint Augusta could be an explosive beacon of expansion and opportunity for the region and state.

Thank you for your time and consideration and you can certainly reach me through the city administration if I can be of any further help.

Sincerely,



Wayne Jandik



CITY OF

WaitePark

March 18, 2026

Re: St. Augusta Water System Improvement Project

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of St. Augusta's Water System Improvements Project. This project is critical for a sustainable, cost-effective, and reliable water supply for their growing community and potentially for surrounding communities as well.

The proposed location of the wells and treatment plant not only would benefit the City of St. Augusta, but the proximity to State Highway 15 could also lead to regional collaboration that provides fiscally responsible options/alternatives to address the growing needs of Waite Park and other neighboring communities.

St. Augusta has been a part of the greater St. Cloud area and has contributed to by being a willing partner in finding and supporting collaborative projects that benefit the entire region. Some of those projects include the St. Cloud Library, St. Cloud Airport and Beaver Island Trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shaunna Johnson
Waite Park City Administrator