



March 18, 2026

**RE: Urgent Funding Request for Critical Water Infrastructure – Waite Park Industrial Corridor**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

On behalf of the mayor and city council of Waite Park, I am writing to provide their support for the construction of a new municipal water tower in the City of Waite Park. The proposed site for this facility is located south of **Highway 23 and 36th Avenue South**, a strategic location essential for addressing immediate water deficiencies and unlocking the economic potential of our region.

**Current Infrastructure Deficiencies**

Our existing industrial areas are currently operating under significant water constraints. Despite high demand from local businesses, our current capacity is severely limited. These deficiencies present two primary risks:

- **Operational Duress:** Existing businesses struggle with inconsistent pressure and volume, which impacts specialized industrial processes and fire safety protocols.
- **Development Stagnation:** The lack of reliable water storage has effectively halted expansion efforts for several current business partners who require guaranteed capacity to scale their operations.

**Impact on Future Development**

Waite Park is positioned for significant growth, yet our progress is stalled by "infrastructure-ready" limitations. The proposed water tower is a linchpin for the future development of the corridor south of Highway 23. Without this investment, the city cannot support the high-

demand users—such as manufacturing and distribution centers—that drive local employment and contribute to the state's tax base.

**Alignment with State Priorities**

This request prioritizes clean water and economic development. By funding this project, the Federal Government will:

- **Ensure Resiliency:** Build long-term municipal water stability and fire protection for a growing industrial hub.
- **Promote Economic Growth:** Remove the primary barrier preventing businesses from investing in the Waite Park and Greater St. Cloud area.

We urge you to consider this vital project to ensure Waite Park remains a competitive and safe place for industrial innovation.

Thank you for your time and your continued service to the people of Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Shaunna Johnson

City Administrator