



**District One**  
**1123 Mesaba Avenue**  
**Duluth, MN 55811**

March 28, 2024

Mindy Granley  
City of Duluth Sustainability Officer  
411 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Duluth, MN 55806

Re: Letter of Support for City of Duluth's EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application

Dear Ms. Granley:

Please accept this letter in support of Duluth's CPRG grant application entitled *City of Duluth: J40 Wastewater Heat Recovery in a Very Cold Climate*. The grant proposal is an exciting opportunity for Duluth to develop a renewable heating solution and is in alignment with the *Lincoln Park Active Transportation Corridor USDOT RAISE* grant that will rebuild 1.6 miles of W. Superior Street beginning in 2025 through 2028.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has a long history of working with the City of Duluth on complex transportation projects. We are currently involved in a multi-year rebuild of the Twin Ports Interchange in Lincoln Park which has included a new bridge over I-35 at 27<sup>th</sup> Ave West and have secured climate mitigation funding for the rebuild of the pedestrian bridge between Lincoln Park and Downtown Duluth in 2026. This bridge is currently undergoing design work which includes the City of Duluth, Ecolibrium3, and Lincoln Park businesses as key stakeholders.

In support of this project, MNDOT commits to working with the *J40 Wastewater Heat Recovery in a Very Cold Climate* team to successfully route utility piping that will connect the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District heat recovery plant with the Lincoln Park distribution system and the Lincoln Park distribution system to the Duluth Energy System central plant.

MnDOT is excited about the potential of transportation projects to serve as a foundational opportunity for decarbonization in other sectors, especially in low-income disadvantaged neighborhoods like Lincoln Park and Downtown Duluth.

We recommend funding of this innovative application and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Duane R. Hill'.

Duane Hill  
District 1, District Engineer