



# Friends of the Mississippi River

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*Working to protect the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities area*

June 19, 2012

President Kathy Lantry  
St. Paul City Council  
320-C City Hall  
15 West Kellogg Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55102

President Lantry and Councilmembers,

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is a local non-profit organization that works to protect and restore the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities. We have 1,600 active members and 3,200 volunteers who care deeply about the health and vitality of the great river.

I am writing to you today to urge you to deny the variance request by David Cossetta for stormwater management requirements at 211 7th Street West (File # 12-046263). As you know, the applicant has not met the City's requirement for practical difficulties needed to grant a variance. We are concerned that granting a variance in this case would set a dangerous precedent for future applicants who would prefer not to meet stormwater standards in the City of St. Paul. Sites like Cossetta's with near-surface bedrock are common in many parts of St. Paul and the City has required the same practices on numerous other projects.

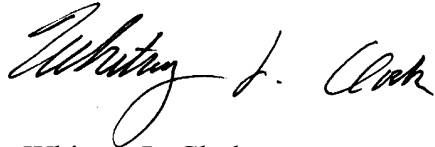
The City's stormwater management code has several important public purposes that would be abrogated by granting a variance request in this case. Among those are reducing flooding, decreasing erosion and the transport of sediment and nutrients carried by stormwater runoff to the Mississippi River and reducing the public costs of building and maintaining stormwater infrastructure. The Mississippi River in St. Paul currently fails to meet state standards for total suspended sediments, in part because of the contributions of urban stormwater runoff.

The City of St. Paul was recently awarded Friends of the Mississippi River's Blue Star Award for excellence in stormwater management, one of only 14 municipalities in Minnesota to have earned this distinction thus far. We sincerely hope that you will not

stray from the path of exemplary watershed stewardship by granting this request.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the points raised in this letter. As always, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Whitney L. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Whitney L. Clark  
Executive Director

Cc: Councilmember Melvin Carter, Ward 1  
Councilmember Dave Thune, Ward 2  
Councilmember Chris Tolbert, Ward 3  
Councilmember Russ Stark, Ward 4  
Councilmember Amy Brendmoen, Ward 5  
Councilmember Dan Bostrom, Ward 6  
Anne Hunt, Mayor Coleman's Office