

From: [Paul Earl-Torniainen](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Objection to Cretin Bayard Mill and Overlay assessment
Date: Saturday, July 22, 2023 12:41:40 PM
Attachments: [2023 mill and overlay letter earl-torniainen.pdf](#)

Ms. Moore, Mayor Carter:

We object to the proposed assessment on our property of approximately \$3700 to fund the Cretin Bayard Mill and Overlay. The attachment outlines the basis of our objection, but here's a more personal explanation...

My wife and I have called St. Paul home for over 20 years. We have enjoyed the friendliness of neighbors, the access to bike and walking paths, and the many parks for recreation. All three of our children have attended/are attending St Paul public schools. However, in recent years we have seen significant increases in our property taxes, and in our opinion, seen a decline in services. Whether it's infrequent snow removal or (some) mediocre teachers, there are indications that the city is not as special a place as it was when we first moved here. Combined with increasing taxation, it is certainly less "livable" for us.

I recall reading in the Villager that one of the justifications for the new Highland Bridge development was to reduce our property taxes by increasing the tax base. I have yet to see that happen. On the contrary, the primary impact to us might instead be increased traffic on Mt Curve Blvd as drivers attempt to avoid congestion on Cretin. Why isn't the development (and St. Thomas, if they get athletic fields built at the development) covering the cost of the Cretin Bayard mill and overlay? I might, in fact, prefer a rough road surface to deter additional traffic on Mt Curve Blvd.

In summary, we have fond memories of raising a family in St Paul. We would like to stay and would like others to move here as well. Increasing taxes and assessments with no benefits is not the way to do it.

Respectfully,

Paul and Kitty Earl-Torniainen