

Dear Councilman Stark:

I am a constituent in Ward 4, a professional engineer, and a professional geologist. I urge you to vote against the variance that Cossetta's is seeking from its stormwater engineering requirements.

Brian M. Davis, Ph.D., P.G., P.E.
1186 Blair Ave.
Saint Paul MN

Hi Russ:

I wanted you to see the attached letter from Friends of the Mississippi River regarding the Cossetta variance. Thanks for your consideration.

Very best,

Whitney

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,

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

Whitney L. Clark

Executive Director