

## ***Sample Letter to Editor***

To The Editor:

From North Mankato, to North Minneapolis, to the North Shore, communities are struggling to deal with a pandemic while also maintaining important local infrastructure that is critical for local businesses. After months of hearings and negotiations, there is agreement among legislative leaders on the size of a capital bonding bill and the need to invest. This is the right bill and the right time for Minnesota to rebuild our communities.

There will not be a bond sale in September so there is no reason – only excuses – for not passing a bonding bill during the September special session. We cannot accept failure and arbitrary deadlines to end talks from certain lawmakers again. Legislators should hold the September session until they strike a bonding deal, no exceptions.

It behooves us to remind all state lawmakers that this legislation is a necessity – not a nicety. Passage of this bill should not become a bargaining chip tied to other issues. Local communities are hurting more than ever from delayed and inadequate investment, worsened the pandemic. Local governments need state aid to invest in needed infrastructure to keep their communities safe and economically stable. Taxpayers can't handle property tax increases now and deferred projects will only become more expensive.

The longer passage of the bonding bill is delayed, the more economic damage will be done. With great uncertainty about the future of construction and unemployment, the legislature needs to focus on creating jobs that will keep our neighbors working. State funding in the bonding bill will leverage more local and federal funds to create tens of thousands of direct and indirect jobs that are desperately needed all across Minnesota.

Passing a bonding bill in September is critical for our short-term recovery and a promising future. Providing bond funds at a time of historically low interest rates to repair and maintain public infrastructure will benefit us today, while we build for generations to come.

Sincerely,