



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

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Ranking Republican Member

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November 17, 2009

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

The Honorable Tim Pawlenty
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is committed to ensuring that funds provided pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5) (Recovery Act) are invested quickly, efficiently, and in harmony with the job-creating purposes of the Act. Throughout development of the Recovery Act, we emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability and ensured that the transportation and infrastructure provisions are subject to the most rigorous transparency and accountability requirements of the Act.¹

Over the past nine months, many States have moved forward aggressively to use the funds provided under the Recovery Act for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) projects to create and sustain family-wage jobs, contribute to our nation's long-term economic growth, and help the United States recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Commendably, Minnesota has the best record among all States. Based on the State progress reports submitted to the Committee in October 2009, Minnesota is leading other States in putting to work its wastewater infrastructure Recovery Act funds. According to submissions received from all States and the District of Columbia, our State ranks first out of 51 States,² based on an analysis of the percentage of wastewater infrastructure Recovery Act funds put out to bid, under contract, and underway.³ As of September 30, Minnesota has begun construction of projects totaling 97 percent of the State's funding.


¹ See P.L. 111-5, § 1201. In addition to the statutory reporting requirements of the Recovery Act, the Committee has requested and received transparency and accountability information on implementation of the transportation and infrastructure provisions of the Recovery Act from Federal agencies, States, metropolitan planning organizations, and public transit agencies.

² These rankings include the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The rankings do not include the Territories.

³ According to the State's submission, as of September 30, 2009, 96.5 percent of Minnesota's Recovery Act funds for Clean Water SRF projects are out to bid, 96.5 percent of funds are under contract, and 96.5 percent of funds are underway. Nationally, 47.9 percent of Recovery Act funds for Clean Water SRF projects are out to bid, 30.2 percent of funds are under contract, and 23 percent of funds are underway.

I expect that our State will continue to keep up the good work and serve as a model for other States around the nation.

Thank you for your efforts. *Governor - I told you this good news over three months ago - now we can document Minnesota's leadership, thanks to the consummate professionalism of Terry Kuhlman and Jeff Freeman!*

Sincerely,

James L. Oberstar, M.C.
Chairman