



March 24, 2025

Katie Benes  
Environmental Services Director  
Itasca County  
123 NE 4th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Re: Letter of Support for Reuse Grant Program

Dear Katie,

I'm writing this letter of support in regard to Itasca County's development and submission of an application to the MPCA's FY 2025 Statewide Waste Reduction and Reuse Grant Program. It's my understanding that Itasca County is requesting a grant that will be used to help develop and open a new space at the Itasca County Transfer Station that will connect local residents and visitors with reused goods.

The City of Grand Rapids serves as the Itasca County seat. With a population of approximately 11,500 it serves more than 45,000 people on a daily basis.

A Climate Action Plan was adopted by the city council in the Fall of 2024. Goal 4 of the plan is *Waste: Finding new ways to recycle and reuse*. The proposed actions are:

- The City of Grand Rapids supports a garbage hauling contract that reflects the goal of climate resiliency by reducing transportation costs, recycling all materials, and providing composting of organics.

Because of our pressing need to develop new strategies for the reduction of waste, the City of Grand Rapids fully supports Itasca County's proposed Reuse Grant Program submittal. To support this effort, our staff will engage with the project consultant and other stakeholders to provide related insight, feedback, and ideas.

Sincerely,

Tasha Connelly  
Mayor