



March 10, 2025

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

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Katie,

I'm writing this letter in regard to Itasca County's development and submission of an application to the MPCA's Construction and Demolition (C&D) Management Planning Grants Request for Proposal. It's my understanding that Itasca County is requesting a grant that will be used to develop a comprehensive C&D management plan for the region. Furthermore, it's my understanding that a key purpose of this plan is to lay the groundwork for an innovative network of infrastructure and partners, all focused on creating new efficiencies in the management of C&D waste in the region.

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.
- The City of Grand Rapids supports converting the existing Keewatin facility to a municipal solid waste facility. The city further supports development of ancillary businesses at the site, including recycling of a full range of products.

Because of our pressing need to develop new strategies for C&D waste management, the City of Grand Rapids is committed to participating in Itasca County's proposed C&D planning project. To support this effort, our staff will engage with the project consultant and other stakeholders to provide related insight, feedback, and ideas.

We look forward to working with Itasca County on improving our recycling and environment.

Sincerely,

Tasha Connelly  
Mayor