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March 3, 2010

Honorable Collin Peterson  
Chair  
Committee on Agriculture  
United States Congress  
2211 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION OF FEDERAL FUNDS IN FY 2011  
FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY  
(CSAH) 52 IN CLAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Dear Chairman Peterson:

This letter represents Clay County's request for the appropriation of federal funds for the reconstruction of CSAH 52 from the City of Sabin to the City of Barnesville. As you know, CSAH 52 serves as a major corridor for farm commodities during planting and harvest. Additionally, it serves as the main route for emergency service vehicles from southern Clay County to the Fargo - Moorhead metropolitan area.

In recent years, the 13.7 mile segment between Sabin and Barnesville has deteriorated significantly. It presents a major safety hazard. For loaded tandem trucks the route is almost impassable. The road surface is rough and getting dangerous.

This road was transferred to Clay County from the State of Minnesota in the early 1970s. It is estimated that it will take \$20 million to upgrade this road to acceptable standards. Presently, Clay County receives approximately \$2.2 million in State Aid annually (for rural as well as municipal combined) for Road & Bridge construction. Thus, it would take approximately 10 years

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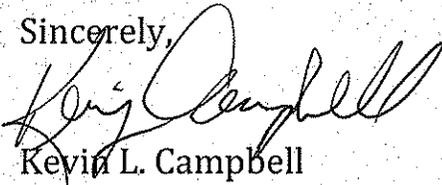
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worth of Clay County's total State Aid allotments to fund this project alone with no State Aid funds left over for any other projects in the County's five-year construction plan. Thus, a federal appropriation is critical to the completion of this project.

Attached with this letter, please find a brief description of our project proposal. Please feel free to contact our County Administrator, Vijay Sethi, (218-299-7327) or County Engineer David Overbo (219-299-5099) if you need further information regarding this appropriation request.

Sincerely,



Kevin L. Campbell

Chair

Clay County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Clay County Commissioners

## **REQUEST FOR CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY (CSAH) 52**

The proposed project consists of the reconstruction of CSAH 52 from the City of Sabin to the City of Barnesville in Clay County.

CSAH 52 is a key component of Clay County's Road and Bridge network.

This Highway is a Turnback from MnDOT to Clay County in 1971. The original construction, by MnDOT, was completed in 1931-32 and Clay County added a bituminous overlay in 1978.

The region along CSAH 52 is heavily farmed. The most prevalent crops are sugar beets, corn, beans, potatoes, and wheat.

This route serves as the only way to get the commodities to the local elevators in Sabin and Barnesville.

This route experiences a significant amount of heavy truck traffic associated with agriculture and gravel mining.

The 13.7 mile segment between Sabin and Barnesville has deteriorated significantly. The road surface is rough and getting dangerous. As such, it presents a major safety hazard. Especially for loaded tandem trucks, the route is almost impassable.

This project is critical to the local and regional economy since it provides a critical "Farm to Market" link connecting the City of Moorhead with Sabin, Baker, and Barnesville.

The CSAH 52 corridor serves as an important commuter route for households living in southern portions of Clay County and traveling to the Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan Area for jobs and business.

CSAH 52 also serves as an alternate route to Interstate 94 between Moorhead and Barnesville.

The estimated project cost for the reconstruction is \$20 million.

Presently, Clay County receives approximately \$2.2 million in State Aid annually (for rural as well as municipal combined) for Road & Bridge construction. Thus it would take over 10 years of Clay County's total State Aid allotments to fund this project alone with no State Aid funds left over for any other projects in the County's 5-year construction plan.

This request for Congressional appropriation enjoys strong support from all affected units of local government, including Clay County, City of Moorhead, City of Sabin, and City of Barnesville.