

Help Save Our Lanesboro Dam!

Sample Messages Included Here...

- Letter to State Leaders
- Phone Call to State Leader
- Letter to the Editor (local paper)

I. Write a Letter to Our State Leaders

A handwritten letter to a state leader (Governor, Representative, Senator) makes a great impact!

Include in your letter:

- Your address
- Date
- Representative's Address (use "The Honorable" in addressing them)
- Salutation...(Dear Governor...Dear Representative...Dear Senator)
- Introduce yourself: your name and home town to identify that you are a constituent
- Why are you writing to them
- Ask them what you would like them to do
- Thank them for his/her time
- Close with your name. (Phone number: optional)

Letter: Sample language below:

(Use your own language and ideas, of course, but this template can be helpful. You may want to use all four of the reasons shared here, or choose the one or ones that you feel are the most important and that have the most impact in your opinion. You may have other reasons of your own that are most important to you. Craft your message!)

(Your address)

(Date)

(Their address)

Dear Representative _____,

Hello, my name is _____, and I live in _____.

I am writing to ask you to support legislation in the 2016 Minnesota Legislative Session that will provide funds for the repairs of the Lanesboro Dam.

As you know, the Lanesboro Dam is uniquely important to our community, our region, and to the entire state of Minnesota. It needs repairs and needs to be saved for some very important reasons.

First, this is a safety issue. The DNR says the dam is unsafe. It says if it fails, there's a strong chance that lives will be lost. Saving the Lanesboro Dam is a public safety issue!

Second, saving the Lanesboro Dam will protect the economy of southeastern Minnesota. Thousands of tourists come to Lanesboro and Bluff Country every year. The dam on the Root River is part of their total experience. To lose that would deeply damage our region's economy.

Third, the Lanesboro Dam is a beautiful, historical treasure that should be saved for people today and for future generations to come.

Fourth, in a time when clean, sustainable energy is growing in visibility and importance, saving the Lanesboro Dam—a source of hydro-electric power for more than a century—makes a powerful statement and provides clean energy to our community.

Again, please support funding to repair and save the Lanesboro Dam!

Thank you very much for your time, and for your efforts on behalf of my request.

Sincerely,

(your name)

(phone number—optional)

II. Make a Phone Call to State Leaders

SAMPLE PHONE SCRIPT

Hello, (Governor, Representative, Senator) my name is _____, and I live in _____.

I am calling to ask you to support legislation in the 2016 Minnesota Legislative Session that will provide funds for the repairs of the Lanesboro Dam.

The Lanesboro Dam is uniquely important to our community, our region, and to the entire state of Minnesota. As you know, it urgently needs repairs. The Dam needs to be saved for very important reasons.

First, this is a safety issue. The DNR says the dam is unsafe. It says if it fails, there's a strong chance that lives will be lost. Saving the Lanesboro Dam is a public safety issue!

Second, saving the Lanesboro Dam will protect the economy of southeastern Minnesota. To lose the Dam would deeply damage our region's economy.

Third, the Lanesboro Dam is a beautiful, historical treasure that should be saved for today and the future.

Fourth, the Dam provides energy—hydro-electric power. It has for more than a century. That helps us locally and it also sends a message to our entire state about the importance of clean, sustainable energy.

Please support needed funding to repair and save the Lanesboro Dam!

Thank you very much for your time. Thank you most of all for helping to save the Lanesboro Dam!

III. WRITE A "LETTER TO THE EDITOR" IN YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

(Your words, your thoughts, make the points that you think are most important)

Sample:

Dear Editor. I want to express my support for state funding in the current bonding bill to repair the Lanesboro Dam.

The DNR says the Dam is unsafe. The DNR predicts that lives will be lost if the dam fails. Repairing the Dam is an issue of public safety.

It also makes economic sense. Our entire southeastern Minnesota region benefits from the thousands of tourists who come to Bluff Country. The dam, the Root River, and all the recreation associated with it, are central to that economy. Losing the Dam would have a devastating impact on our region.

The Lanesboro Dam is also an historical treasure—nearly 150 years old—that needs to be saved for people now and for generations to come.

Finally, the Dam actually generates clean energy to the people of Lanesboro. Losing that sends the wrong message at a time when we are trying to encourage clean, sustainable sources of power.

Our legislators in St. Paul need to do the right thing in their upcoming vote. They need to save the Lanesboro Dam!