

YOUR VIEWS

Bonding bill has the wrong priorities

Thank you, Rep. Tony Cornish, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and the many others for taking the difficult position against the current bonding bill.

Through Junior Achievement, I recently taught first graders about “wants” versus “needs.” These six year olds would tell us that most of this bill is filled with projects that we “want” versus those that we truly “need.”

Rationalized as a job creator, the Mankato civic center expansion would be a great asset for the community but would be a poor choice for stimulating private sector job growth.

Rep. Kathy Brynaert correctly suggests that now is a good time to spend money on infrastructure. I don't disagree with her position.

However, we (both parties) need to better identify our priorities.

We need to reform this badly broken system, best described as “the squeaky wheel gets the oil.” Not unlike a co-op that pays dividends to stakeholders, somehow cities should be financially rewarded for how efficiently they run, rather than how aggressively they beg for state dollars.

A big thank you to Greater Mankato Growth for its recent efforts in organizing Greater Mankato's Day at the Capitol, which was time and money well spent.

Constructive reform doesn't happen until we all get involved.

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