

Chair Hanson,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, we want to raise two issues contained in the HF4554 DE Amendment.

First, we would like to thank you for again including the per diem increase for SWCD supervisors. We have appreciated your support for Rep. Marquarts bill and especially the comments you made when the bill was first heard in Environment Policy back in February.

The second issue we would like your assistance with is in Art. 2, Subd. 4. on line 12.13. The Soil and Water Conservation Fund. We believe strongly that the language should include the word "District" after the word "Conservation" to ensure it is clear for whom the funds are intended.

We would suggest the following language:

Subd. 4. Soil and Water Conservation **District** Fund. There is created in the state treasury a soil and water conservation **district** fund as a special revenue fund for deposit of appropriations, revenue dedicated to benefit soil and water conservation **districts**, and other revenue sources.

This change would also make it consistent with the provision list (see below), and the spreadsheet on line 46 that reads "SWCD Capacity Longterm Strategy"

HF 4290	Hansen	SWCD Fund	Art. 2, Sec. 1	
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Thank you again for your support, the inclusion of the per diem language and for consideration of this additional and important clarification for the Soil and Water Conservation Fund. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have or would be willing to testify on the suggested change if you believe it is necessary.

**Pierre Willette**

*Director, Government Relations*