



**LAND  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROJECT**

LEWISTON OFFICE  
180 East Main St, Box 130  
Lewiston, MN 55952  
507-523-3366

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE  
821 East 35<sup>th</sup> St, #200  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
612-722-6377

MONTEVIDEO OFFICE  
117 South 1<sup>st</sup> St  
Montevideo, MN 56265  
320-269-2105

April 5, 2022

Members of the House Taxes Committee,

The Land Stewardship Project's mission is to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, promote sustainable agriculture, and develop healthy communities. LSP represents over 4,500 households in Minnesota – primarily farmers and rural residents, as well as urban and suburban allies. Some of the Land Stewardship Project's greatest priorities are keeping small and mid-sized farmers on the land, growing the number of farmers stewarding the land, and advancing adoption of sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices.

**I write in support today of House File 3669, specifically the measure to provide \$22 million to Soil and Water Conservation Districts to bolster and equalize funding the critical roles and programs they provide (section 14, lines 130.4 to 131.24).**

Our members have a keen interest in restoring and regenerating our soils, working to ensure all farmers have the resources they need to farm in ways that benefit their operations, their land and more broadly, our communities. The support farmers and landowners receive in both programmatic offerings and technical assistance from their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts are a critical piece of ensuring more soil health practices across our state are adopted to better protect and enhance our soil, water, and climate.

The funding included in HF 3669 to increase and equalize the funding available for SWCDs is a measure that will have great impacts for our farmers and especially rural communities, and we thank you for the inclusion and ask for the committee's support in this provision.

**On behalf of our members, we urge you to vote yes on this bill. With a historic budget surplus, you have a unique opportunity to deliver for farmers, rural Minnesotans, and our SWCDs this legislative session.**

Sincerely,

Laura Schreiber  
Policy Organizer  
Land Stewardship Project