

May 3, 2023

Representative Tina Liebling and Conference Committee Members

**RE: S2995 2<sup>nd</sup> Unofficial Engrossment**

The Minnesota Section American Water Works Association (MN AWWA) Water Utility Council provides guidance to MN AWWA in matters of legislative, regulatory, security and energy related issues. Members of the Water Utility Council represent water utilities from across the State, both metro and outstate, and include non-utility members consisting of engineers and scientists with expertise in the water industry.

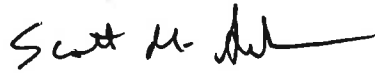
The MN AWWA Water Utility Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 2995 2<sup>nd</sup> Unofficial Engrossment, specifically asking that the following be included in the final bill.

**Re-establishment of the Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities:** Sec. 34, lines 123.1-124.3 re-establishes the Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities between the Department of Health, Pollution Control Agency, and Water and Wastewater utilities. Reinstatement of this council will provide a platform for greater collaboration and communication between the State and water and wastewater system operators and stakeholders, particularly in the areas of operator training and certification. Enhanced teamwork at this level will help water and wastewater systems navigate State and Federal guidelines as well as to serve to inform agencies of stakeholder concerns or issues ultimately resulting in higher quality water and wastewater services for the people of Minnesota.

**Strengthening Public Drinking Water System Infrastructure:** Please consider inclusion of language in SF S2295-3, Sec. 3, lines 177.23-178.14 which provides necessary support and funding for drinking water suppliers to improve system security and resiliency by addressing the immense challenges associated with threats such as climate change and cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Funding, technical support, and other assistance to help build system redundancies like system interconnects, back-up power supplies, and backflow prevention along with resources to help address cyber threats are needed by public water suppliers to ensure continued safe, reliable drinking water for the all the public.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions or would like additional information or testimony, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Scott M. Anderson, P.E.  
Chair, Water Utility Council, MN American Water Works Association  
Utilities Superintendent, City of Bloomington Public Works  
1800 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
[smanderson@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:smanderson@bloomingtonmn.gov)  
(952) 563-4867 office  
(952) 217-1769 cell

