

Feb 25, 2019

Rep. Lippert, Chair Fisher and Members of the House Water Division

On behalf of the Minnesota Well Owners Organization, MnWOO, I want to speak in favor of house File 1314 relative to source water protection and funding for investigation and outreach for drinking water supplies that draw from surface waters and from private wells.

Source water protection (SWP) is a critical issue in Minnesota where approximately a quarter of the population uses water from surface water supplies, and another quarter of the population takes their water from private wells. HF 1314 benefits half of Minnesota's population; all those that rely on these sources of drinking water source water.

Unlike community water systems using groundwater who are provided technical assistance and are rapidly adopting SWP plans Minnesota's private well owners and communities using surface water have few resources, fewer protections and little technical assistance or practical advice about protecting the source of their water.

Source water is often an unknown factor for many well owners. We first need more education and outreach. This is not a small task because SWP includes everything from inspections and maintenance of your water system, your well, and surroundings in your yard PLUS the aquifer condition AND the susceptibility of the groundwater recharge areas that replenish our drinking water.

In Mn too many well owners are unaware of these hidden factors. Education about water systems and wells is the first step and is a household responsibility.

Identification of the condition of aquifers and their recharge areas is the next critical step and outreach is the needed first step. At this scale SWP cannot be protected by private individuals alone; it will take a community effort.

The Minnesota Well Owners Organization is strongly in support of House File 1314 and we urge adoption. Thank You.

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