



The Nature Conservancy in
Minnesota, North Dakota, South
Dakota
1101 West River Parkway, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1291

tel (612) 331.0700
fax (612) 331.0770
nature.org

Representative Fue Lee
485 State Office Building
House Capital Investment Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 6, 2023

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

As the Committee reviews the Governor's capital budget recommendations for the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), we write to share our support for proposed investments that will benefit people and nature.

We are especially pleased to see a proposed appropriation of \$11,880,000 for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP is a voluntary program that helps keep some of the state's environmentally vulnerable lands in perennial cover, protecting or cleaning water before entering our lakes, rivers, and streams. These funds leverage additional federal dollars about 2:1 and double the power of the state's investment. The state has a continued opportunity to make use of federal resources and support landowners who have determined the highest and best for their land is to enroll in a conservation program.

As this committee considers investments to include in a bonding proposal to address climate change and make Minnesota more resilient, we encourage you to include Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) among a suite of other natural climate solutions investments that use nature as an effective carbon sequestration and resilience tool. Other natural climate solutions investments that BWSR can help implement include water storage and floodplain protection.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla
Government Relations Director
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota

Molly Jansen
Government Relations Specialist
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota