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April 4, 2022

Rep. Paul Marquart
Chair, House Taxes Committee

Re: HF 3669 (Marquart) A22-0407 House Omnibus Tax Bill

Chair Marquart and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), I'd like to share our support for the Soil and Water Conservation District Aid provisions included in the A22-0407 amendment for HF 3669 (Marquart).

As you know, SWCD Aid would establish a standing, statutory appropriation of general funds from the Department of Revenue to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) statewide, in the amount of \$22 million per year. It would be similar to state aids for other elected units of local government.

As water quality and soil health issues are prioritized in Minnesota, SWCDs' roles have expanded and now include helping landowners navigate programs and policies that are increasing in complexity. To face these challenges and increase our pace of progress toward cleaner water and healthier soils, SWCDs need more predictable and more adequate state funding. SWCD Aid will help meet those funding needs.

Thank you for your support and for including SWCD Aid in your bill.

Sincerely,

Paul Krabbenhoft
President
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD represents the state's 88 soil and water conservation districts, including their 440 elected supervisors and their more than 460 employees. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of the State established under Minnesota Statute Chapter 103C. Each SWCD is governed by a board of elected supervisors. SWCD law is implemented across 100% of the state.