

Dear Rep. Liz Reyer,

I serve as a Supervisor on the board of the Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I am passionate about conserving Minnesota's remarkable natural resources. I am writing you today to ask you to support a statutory appropriation for SWCD Aid at the amount of \$22 million per year.

SWCDs are a primary source of conservation information, support, and program management for landowners and other local units of government. We are the technical experts and "boots on the ground" who understand our community's needs and help landowners navigate conservation programs from start to finish.

SWCDs are funded primarily through the state legislature through the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Without adequate funding, thousands of available federal and private dollars cannot be committed to important projects due to cost-share requirements. The \$22 million per year we are seeking in HF 3719 would get SWCDs statewide closer to fulfilling the critical conservation needs in our community. It will allow SWCDs to better plan for the future, better hire and retain qualified and credentialed staff, and increase our pace of progress in working toward our clean water and healthy soil goals.

This funding would help stabilize the ongoing conservation efforts in Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District as well as many districts across the state.

Thank you for your legislative service. The Grant County SWCD will continue to be an efficient and effective steward of our resources.

Sincerely,

Paul Groneberg
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Hoffman, MN 56339

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