

FRESHWATER

April 29, 2024

Chair Fue Lee
Capital Investment Committee
485 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for clean water investments in HF5220

Chair Lee and committee members,

At Freshwater, we believe that all Minnesotans should have access to clean drinking water – regardless of whether that water comes from metropolitan water systems, rural and community water systems, or from private drinking water wells.

This session's capital improvement bill is an opportunity to make important strides toward providing needed water infrastructure and safeguarding groundwater for millions of people across the state.

As you consider the appropriations outlined in HF5220, we strongly support the following items:

- **Line 7.4** – \$4 million to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the Statewide Drinking Water Contamination Mitigation Program. This will assist the state response to nitrate contamination in southeastern Minnesota, along with other urgent drinking water issues.
- **Line 8.7** – \$6 million to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve program, which funds conservation easements that restore and protect lands, benefiting water quality in rural Minnesota.
- **Line 15.13** – \$57 million to the Public Facilities Authority to assist Minnesota communities in funding critical drinking water, wastewater and other infrastructure projects.
- **Line 21.19** – Establishing a Statewide Drinking Water Contamination Mitigation program for communities most at risk.
- **Line 22.26** – Establishing a Secondary Sources of Drinking Water Grant Program that would allow for backup to community water systems in case of a disruptive event such as a well failure or contamination.

Thank you for making water a priority in this year's capital improvement bill, and we appreciate your work on behalf of Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Michelle Stockness, PE
Executive Director, Freshwater

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Freshwater is a nonprofit organization working to inspire and empower people to value and preserve water.