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Chair Rick Hansen
Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: A12 Amendment regarding Water Storage to the HF 1076 DE

April 7, 2021

Dear Chair Hansen and members of the Committee:

As the committee considers that A12 amendment to the delete-all amendment to HF1076, we write to offer support for a provision included in the amendment.

Line 2.11-12 of the amendment propose adding the Lower Mississippi River Basin as a priority area for BWSR to target for the water quality and storage program, along with the Minnesota River Basin which is already targeted in the bill.

We know the benefits of a storage program are important across the state. While water quantity challenges in the Minnesota River basin have been worsening, we have seen the same challenges beyond the Minnesota River. Smaller rivers not included in the Minnesota River basin have also experience repeated flooding and loss of storage that would benefit from this effort including tributaries to the Mississippi.

We encourage the Committee add this amendment language to the final bill to expand the opportunities we have to apply a water storage program across the state.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla
Government Relations Manager
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota