



BIG STONE COUNTY MINNESOTA

ADMINISTRATION

March 15, 2022

TO: Polly Cerkvenik
Committee Administrator for the House Property Tax Division

I serve as the Chairman of the Big Stone County Commissioners. At the Board meeting today, the Board approved this letter to you to ask you to support a statutory appropriation for Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Aid at the amount of \$22 million per year through HF 3719 authored by Representative Reyer.

SWCDs are a primary source of conservation information, support, and program management for landowners and other local units of government. 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 they are seeking would get SWCDs statewide closer to fulfilling the critical conservation needs in our community. It will allow SWCDs to better plan for the future, hire and retain better-qualified and credentialed staff, and increase the pace of progress toward our clean water and healthy soil goals locally and state-wide.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Klages".

Jeff Klages
Big Stone County Board Chair

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(320) 487-1101

www.BigStoneCounty.gov