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Members of the House Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee,

The Land Stewardship Project's mission is to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, promote sustainable agriculture, and develop healthy communities. LSP represents over 4,500 households in Minnesota – about a third of which are farmers, a third of which are rural residents, and a third of which live in larger cities from Moorhead to Winona to Duluth.

One of the Land Stewardship Project's greatest priorities is cultivating healthy soil. Our Soil Health Program works with farmers directly to advance adoption of sustainable and regenerative practices. In addition, thousands of LSP members and supporters have come together over the last year to build a strong legislative campaign to win effective policies and meaningful investments into soil health, farmers, and rural communities.

The five principles of soil health are as follows:

1. Armor the soil.
2. Minimize chemical, physical, and biological disturbance.
3. Increase plant diversity.
4. Keep living roots in the soil.
5. Integrate livestock.

Minimizing disturbance means limiting chemical application and tillage, as well as ensuring the land has adequate grazing and resting periods.

In addition, our farm and food system depend on our pollinator populations. Farmers will be unable to feed our communities or provide economic benefit to our state without stewarding the health of our pollinators. When we care for the soil and our pollinators, we are cultivating vibrant rural communities, healthy microorganisms, clean water, productive crops, a sustainable climate, and resilient land and local economies.

Therefore, the Land Stewardship Project strongly supports House File 670 (Morrison), House File 766 (Hansen), House File 1450 (Hansen), and House File 408 (Hansen).

With our pollinator populations dwindling, countless Minnesota households without adequate drinking water, and degrading top soil, our farmer and rural members depend on our leaders, like yourself, to take action. Please support the bills before you today.

Sincerely,

The Land Stewardship Project Soil Health & Climate Organizing Committee

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