

Submitted as email to Rep. Hansen

February 3, 2021

Rep. Rick Hansen
Minnesota House of Representatives
407 State Office Building

Dear Rep. Hansen:

I send this email to express my support for your bill H.F. 99 regarding an appropriation to the Minnesota Rim Reserve Program.

Supporting RIM is an easy decision if you read the headlines in recent years. RIM is a program to increase grasslands on land with willing landowners. Yes, landowners are paid to participate.

More grassland will help reduce water issues in southwest Minnesota which is plagued by ground water unfit for drinking because of excessive chlorides or nitrates. Roughly 40 percent of shallow wells in that part of the state have unhealthy levels of nitrates in drinking water. Ask the folks in Worthington how their polluted water crisis was solved: more and more grasslands.

Increased grassland and wetlands in the southwest will reduce flooding, soil erosion, and provide a valuable side benefit: habitat for pheasants, songbirds, deer, and other wildlife, including bees and butterflies.

Excuse the language but supporting and passing HF 99 is a no-brainer. To continue degrading the landscape in southwestern Minnesota is not an option.

I congratulate Rep. Hansen for his foresight and apologize for relying on email rather than a formal letter.

Best regards,

Ron Schara
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