



*Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans*

May 8, 2025

Senator Omar Fateh  
Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy  
Conference Committee  
3219 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Marion Rarick  
Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy  
Conference Committee  
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Dan Wolgamott  
Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy Conference Committee  
5th Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Fateh, Chair Rarick, and Chair Wolgamott,

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Conference Committee on HF2431. The Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) supports our work at MDH to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources and public health throughout the State. Given this critical partnership, we suggest adopting the House funding position reflected in HF2312 in conference committee.

Restoration of this funding will enable the MGS to continue providing key in-kind services to MDH that will protect public health and ground water in Minnesota for future generations. Some examples of the supporting services provided to MDH from MGS include:

- Managing the MN water well database (MN County Well Index). Information in this data system is instrumental in understanding subsurface conditions for wells by state and local agencies, the private sector, and the public.
- Providing technical assistance and advice on geological and hydrogeological information used during environmental contaminant investigations such as PFAS and nitrates.
- Providing borehole logging and interpretation services to state agencies to aid in water well planning, construction, and well abandonment.
- Supporting ground water and water resource technical requests from the MDH Well Management, Drinking Water Protection, and Water Policy Center program areas.

- Supporting the identification of naturally occurring hazards in the subsurface that help inform public health initiatives such as deposits rich in radium causing unhealthy radon levels in indoor air.
- Reports and data products from MGS provide context and professional assessments of the geologic and hydrogeologic settings upon which MDH builds its framework of drinking water protections for approximately 6000 public water systems across the state.

The technical support services noted above have directly aided MDH in its ongoing response to elevated nitrates in southeast Minnesota private drinking water wells. MGS's interpretation of Southeast Minnesota's geology and hydrogeology has been critically important to understand the distribution of nitrates in the subsurface along with understanding which drinking water aquifers are impacted from nitrates versus those that are not. Information from the MN County Well Index and MGS Geologic Atlas programs have been important tools in guiding MDH's response to improving drinking water and public health in Southeast Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Myra Kunas", written in a cursive style.

Myra Kunas, MS  
Assistant Commissioner  
P.O. Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

CC: Senator Putnam  
Senator Duckworth  
Representative Robbins  
Representative Coulter