

Co-Chair Mary Franson
House Capital Investment Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chair Fue Lee
House Capital Investment Committee
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 16, 2026

Dear Co-Chair Franson, Co-Chair Lee, and Members of the Capital Investment Committee:

We write to convey The Nature Conservancy's support for capital investments toward a program that was included in the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) preliminary agency request and that we hope the Capital Investment Committee will support as well: The BWSR water storage assistance program has recognized at least \$9 million in need to benefit water quality, biodiversity, and agricultural land in communities across the state.

Water storage practices under this easement program are an important working land tool that help to reduce the rate and quantity of water flowing into nearby streams and rivers following significant precipitation events or natural disasters like flooding. This popular and in-demand program improves water quality and supports biodiversity by preventing erosion, while also protecting farmland and downstream infrastructure. It provides a win-win for clean water and agriculture.

As this committee considers capital investments, we encourage your support of this program that can address the challenges of climate-related natural disasters, biodiversity loss, and protecting high-value production land. We hope you can include investment in this program among a suite of natural climate solutions to ensure Minnesota's resiliency.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Pinkalla
Government Relations Director
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota



Angelica Day
Government Relations Specialist
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota