



Swift County Soil and Water  
Conservation District

1430 Utah Ave.  
Benson, MN 56215  
320-842-7201, ext. 3  
[www.SwiftSWCD.org](http://www.SwiftSWCD.org)

Dear Representative Reyer:

I serve on the Swift County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board and am passionate about conserving Minnesota's remarkable natural resources. I am writing you today to ask you to support a statutory appropriation for SWCD Aid at the amount of \$22 million per year, HF 3719.

SWCDs are a primary source of conservation information, support, and program management for landowners and other local units of government. We are the technical experts and "boots on the ground" who understand our community's needs and help landowners navigate conservation programs from start to finish.

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 we 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, better hire and retain qualified and credentialed staff, and increase our pace of progress in working toward our clean water and healthy soil goals.

The Swift SWCD has been a stalwart in conservation within the county. We are active in all watersheds within the county, providing financial and technical assistance to both resident and absentee landowners. For this upcoming field season, we plan to provide funding to assist with wetland restorations, sediment dams to prevent in field erosion, and open tile intake replacements with French drains. Capacity funding has allowed for funding the technical and financial component of many of these projects. If SWCD Aid were to pass, these opportunities for landowners would only expand. The SWCD also has been strongly promoting soil health practices, as we aim to educate growers on the importance of improving their soil for themselves and for future generations.

I would be happy to further discuss how funding SWCDs allows us to help landowners with these crucial, voluntary conservation projects.

Thank you for your legislative service. Swift SWCD will continue to be an efficient and effective steward of our resources.

Sincerely,

Dale Schlieman  
Board Chairman, Swift SWCD  
320-394-2445  
1470 30<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Holloway, MN 56249

*Our Mission: The Swift County Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to providing high quality technical, financial, and educational assistance to landowners and land managers of Swift County by promoting sound stewardship of our land and water resources.*