



MASWCD

PRESIDENT

CHARLES RAU
Rice, MN
(320) 493-9503
chuck.rau@maswcd.org

VICE PRESIDENT & SW AREA 5 DIRECTOR

CLARK LINGBEEK
Comfrey, MN
(507) 920-9884
clark.lingbeek@maswcd.org

SECRETARY/TREASURER & SC AREA 6 DIRECTOR

MARK SCHNOBRICH
Hutchinson, MN
(320) 587-3760
mark.schnobrich@maswcd.org

NW AREA 1 DIRECTOR

RANDY SCHELLACK
Glyndon, MN
(701) 238-8121
randy.schellack@maswcd.org

WC AREA 2 DIRECTOR

TOM GREGORY
Kimball, MN
320-398-7312
tom.gregory@maswcd.org

NE AREA 3 DIRECTOR

KURT BECKSTROM
Milaca, MN
(612) 390-2459
kurt.beckstrom@maswcd.org

METRO AREA 4 DIRECTOR

LAURA ZANMILLER
West St. Paul, MN
(651) 270-2856
laura.zanmiller@maswcd.org

SE AREA 7 DIRECTOR

RANDY SMITH
Adams, MN
(507) 438-4570
randy.smith@maswcd.org

NC AREA 8 DIRECTOR

KEN LAPORTE
Pillager, MN
(218) 746-3927
ken.laporte@maswcd.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

PAUL KRABBENHOFT
Moorhead, MN
(701) 799-0369
paul.krabbenhoft@maswcd.org

STAFF

Executive Director
LEANN BUCK

Assistant Director
SHEILA VANNEY

Office Manager
STEFANIE MARTINEZ

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

255 Kellogg Boulevard East, Suite 101, St. Paul, MN 55101 | 651-690-9028 | www.maswcd.org

February 27, 2023

Rep. Aisha Gomez
Chair, House Taxes Committee

Re: HF 1938 (Gomez) Governor's proposed tax bill provisions

Chair Gomez and House Taxes Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed tax bill provisions put forward by Governor Walz in HF 1938.

We greatly appreciate the Governor's inclusion of Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) State Aid in Article 4 – Property Taxes, Aids, and Credits. Establishing state funding for SWCDs through a state aid mechanism will provide stability and predictability to our statewide conservation delivery system, including our 440 elected supervisors and our more than 460 conservation professionals.

The level of funding currently proposed by Governor Walz, unfortunately, is well below what is needed. The bill's \$12 million per year does not help us solve our chronically unmet funding needs. We hope that in light of the strong bipartisan support for SWCD Aid at \$22 million per year in bills being carried by Rep. Liz Reyer (HF 725) and Sen. Matt Klein (SF 526), that Governor Walz will see fit to increase his funding recommendation for SWCD Aid to the \$22 million per year.

The \$22 million per year we are seeking would help fill longstanding funding gaps that have hampered the ability of SWCDs to deliver the services essential for implementing our statutory duties. Now is a critical time for us to invest in the capacity of SWCDs as they work to leverage federal, state, and local funding investments toward protecting and improving soil health and water quality for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chuck Rau
MASWCD President