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Representative Josh Heintzeman
Centennial Office Building, Second Floor
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 22, 2025

Dear Representative Chair Heintzeman and Committee members,

The Nature Conservancy appreciates the opportunity to be both a resource for members of the committee on issues where TNC's science can help inform your critical work for the state, and provide feedback on decisions before the body. As the Committee reviews House File 8, we write to share considerations pertaining to Section 5(e) regarding the petition process for an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW).

Specifically, TNC is concerned about the proposed change that the required 100 petitioners need to reside within the county of the proposed project or adjacent to it, found in lines 11.26-11.27.

The impact of projects and decisions are not limited to geopolitical county boundaries, rather impacts must be considered at the watershed scale or groundwater aquifer scale.

Therefore, when proposed projects are located within areas or counties with low population, but the watershed of the projects will have a larger regional impact on groundwater for communities, we believe that all potentially impacted communities should be able to engage in decision making processes. We encourage the committee to consider further amending or removing this proposed aspect of the bill in future conversation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HF 8 and for your work on behalf of the State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Angie Becker Kudelka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angie Becker Kudelka
Deputy Chapter Director, Conservation
The Nature Conservancy