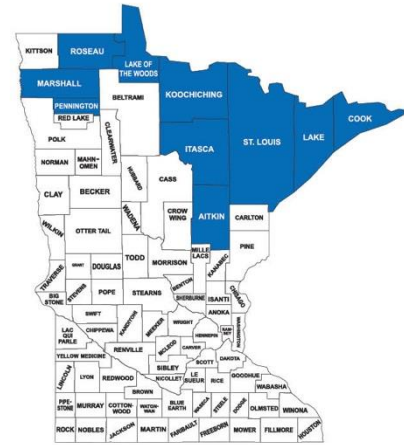

NORTHERN COUNTIES LAND USE COORDINATING BOARD

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Letter of Support: Senate File 3509

Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board (NCLUCB), a ten-county member joint-powers board, wish to express our support for SF 3509. NCLUCB's region encompasses 45% of the state's regulated surface waters and 46% of the state's remaining wetlands. It is from the perspective of partners with the state and federal government in managing this vast landscape of water resources that we offer our support. Our member counties and our constituents are also frequent applicants and permittees within the complex regulatory structure, jurisdictional uncertainty, variable Federal policies, and multiple Supreme Court decisions governing this nation's water resources.

In a water resource management structure characterized at the Federal level by ambiguity and frequently contentious regulatory interactions between states and Federal agencies, Minnesota can become a model of clarity and coordination by aggressively pursuing 404 Assumption irrespective of the national turbulence over various definitions of Waters of the U.S. The State of Minnesota has a legislative and administrative history of strong water resource regulation and management which justifies our pursuit and ultimate assumption of a broader role in the 404 program. The SF 3509 appropriation is essential to this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Marcotte, Chair of NCLUCB
Aitkin County Commissioner
