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March 18, 2022

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee

Re: SF 3020 (Ingebrigtsen) Conservation reserve program appropriation to provide state incentives.

Chair Ingebrigtsen and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, thank you for the opportunity to share our support for SF 3020 (Ingebrigtsen) Conservation reserve program appropriation to provide state incentives.

As the organization representing the state's 440 elected SWCD board members and their over 460 professional employees, MASWCD supports state incentive funding for those enrolling or re-enrolling in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

In our more than 80-year history, SWCDs have long-established working relationships with our partners at USDA. Approximately 70 of our 88 SWCDs are co-located with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency office at the field office level.

The federal Conservation Reserve Program is an important tool for getting conservation practices on the ground, and SWCDs often work in partnership with our federal partners to reach out to landowners, to assist them with enrolling in the program, and to provide technical assistance with writing the conservation plans that accompany those enrollments.

SWCDs appreciate state efforts to help the program make better financial sense for those considering the program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheila Vanney
Assistant Director
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts