



May 3, 2022

Chairman Bill Weber  
2109 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue West  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Weber and members of the Subcommittee on Property Taxes,

On behalf of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association's 6,500 members I want to thank you for the inclusion of the Agriculture Riparian Buffer Tax Credit included in section 2 of the Subcommittee on Property Taxes committee report.

In 2015 the legislature passed the buffer law requiring that all public waters have a 50 foot riparian buffer and all public drainage systems having a 16.5-foot riparian buffer. Since that time Minnesota farmers have, without proper compensation, come into compliance with the law. According to the Board of Water and Soil Resources nearly 100 percent of public waters and ditches are in compliance with the law.

The buffer legislation not only failed to provide any compensation to farmers for the costs of creating buffers, but farmers continue to be taxed each year on buffer acres at valuations that assume those acres are still producing crops and revenue. The inclusion of the buffer tax credit is an issue of fairness and it will help reduce the tax burden on the acres that are no longer generating income.

MCGA wants to thank Chairman Weber for the inclusion of the Riparian Buffer Tax Credit and we look forward to working with you to get this provision included in a final tax agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Biegler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bryan Biegler  
President  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association