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## Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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April 4, 2022

Sen. Carla Nelson  
Chair, Senate Taxes Committee

### Re: SF 3692 (Nelson) A-3 Delete Everything Amendment

Chair Nelson and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Senate Omnibus Tax Bill - SF 3692 – as proposed to be amended by the A-3 delete everything amendment.

As we've shared with you earlier in session, we are seeking the establishment of SWCD Aid, which would be a standing, statutory appropriation from the Department of Revenue to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) statewide, in the amount of \$22 million per year. SWCD Aid would be similar to state aids for other elected units of local government, and has received bipartisan support.

SWCDs have greatly appreciated appropriations from the Clean Water Fund for SWCD capacity the past several years. However, while a percentage of sales tax proceeds are dedicated to the Clean Water Fund, Clean Water Funds are not dedicated to SWCDs. Every two years, our locally elected SWCD boards and their professional staff have been faced with uncertainty, not with the level of that funding, but whether it would exist at all. That uncertainty has put considerable stress on our statewide conservation delivery system and hampered our ability to plan for and implement cooperative conservation projects with interested landowners and other partners.

As discussions continue around the tax bill, we hope you will give further consideration to SWCD Aid and the value it will bring to our natural resources and the public we serve.

Sincerely,

Paul Krabbenhoft  
President

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

*MASWCD represents the state's 88 soil and water conservation districts, including their 440 elected supervisors and their more than 460 employees. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of the State established under Minnesota Statute Chapter 103C. Each SWCD is governed by a board of elected supervisors. SWCD law is implemented across 100% of the state.*