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Senator Sandra Pappas
Senate Capital Investment Committee
2113 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W.
St. Paul, MN 55103

February 7, 2023

Dear Chair Pappas and Members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee,

As the Committee reviews the Governor's capital budget recommendations, for the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), we write to share our support for proposed investments that will benefit people and nature.

We are especially pleased to see a proposed appropriation of \$11,880,000 for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP is a voluntary program that helps keep some of the state's environmentally vulnerable lands in perennial cover, protecting or cleaning water before entering our lakes, rivers and streams. These funds leverage additional federal dollars about 2:1 and double the power of the state's investment. The state has a continued opportunity to make use of federal resources and support landowners who have determined the highest and best for their land is to enroll in a conservation program.

As this committee considers investments to include in a bonding proposal to address climate change and make Minnesota more resilient, we encourage you to include Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) among a suite of other natural climate solutions investments that use nature as an effective carbon sequestration and resilience tool. Other natural climate solutions investments that BWSR can help implement include water storage and floodplain protection.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla
Government Relations Director
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