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Senator Foug Hawj  
3231 Minnesota Senate Building  
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee  
95 University Ave W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 15, 2023

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee,

As the Committee reviews the Governor's budget recommendations for the Pollution Control Agency and Board of Water and Soil Resources, we write to share our support for proposed investments in programs that will benefit people and nature and support communities across the state. We are particularly pleased to see these proposed appropriations:

- \$173,880,000 one-time and \$1,120,000 ongoing per year for Resilient Communities Grants and Technical Assistance (MPCA)
- \$17,000,000 one-time and \$480,000 ongoing per year for Accelerated Water Storage and Treatment (BWSR)
- \$13,580,000 ongoing per year for Accelerated Soil Health Practices (BWSR)
- \$9,000,000 one-time and \$1,000,000 ongoing per year for the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (BWSR)
- \$22,000,000 one-time and \$400,000 ongoing per year for Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Grasslands/Working Lands Easement Program (BWSR)
- \$15,000,000 one-time and \$710,000 ongoing per year for RIM Peatlands Easement Program (BWSR)
- \$7,100,000 one-time and \$480,000 ongoing per year for Climate Mitigation and Resiliency for RIM Easements (BWSR)

These programs provide multiple benefits that touch all Minnesotans' lives, including carbon sequestration, water quality improvements, water quantity benefits, air quality improvements, biodiversity protection, and resiliency among communities including stormwater and flood mitigation.

As this committee considers investments that can address climate change and make Minnesota more resilient, we encourage you to include these investments among a suite of other natural climate solutions.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla  
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