



**Legislative  
Coordinating Commission**

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Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy

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March 4 2023,

Chair Hawj and Members,

For the record, I am Jim Stark, Director of the Subcommittee on Water Policy. Senate File 2191 is one of several bills that have resulted from the subcommittee's stakeholder process over the summer. That process involved hearing and prioritizing over 50 issues relating to water management and water policy. The Subcommittee consists of 12 members, 6 from each of the bodies, equally split between the parties. Thank you for hearing this bill.

SF2191 is titled "Statewide drinking water safety action plan development with an appropriation". The bill simply provides a plan to identify wells and a sampling plan to monitor for aquifers that are vulnerable to contamination. This monitoring network of shallow wells would provide an early warning system about contaminants that could affect drinking water wells. Forever chemicals, for example.

Several state agencies have programs for groundwater monitoring. However, each of these networks has a particular purpose and list of things sampled. For example, the DNR's focus is on water levels. MDA's focus is on agricultural chemical. These networks, that are in place, provide the backbone for the monitoring system being proposed.

The bill would provide support to update maps of shallow aquifers that are vulnerable to contamination. Existing maps are rather old and progress on the County Geologic Atlas program now allows for updates.

The effort would evaluate existing monitoring networks and select wells in appropriate locations and depths for inclusion in the network. In certain areas, additional wells may be needed to complete the network. Finally, the bill would provide an appropriate list of chemicals and sampling frequency.

This planning effort would result in a proposal for a sentinel monitoring well network, serving as an early-warning system for our shallow vulnerable aquifers used as sources of drinking water.

The network would supplement, expand, and be based on the USGS national groundwater monitoring network. The national network provides monitoring objectives, protocols and data archival procedures that can be directly adapted. The state's agencies participate in this network. However, it is a nation-wide network that uses voluntary participation and is not detailed enough for the effort described in this bill.

The bill simply provides funding for analysis, planning and a report provided by the MGS, DNR, MPCA, MDA and MDH,

There are several others here to testify to the bill. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully, Jim Stark

Director, Subcommittee on Water Policy

