



March 16th 2023

Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee
Minnesota Senate Building Room 3231
95 University Ave West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Clean Water Council Provisions SF 1682

Dear Chair Hawj, Ranking Member Eichorn and members of the committee,

The Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of projects included in Clean Water Fund (CWF) article of SF 1682 that were included in the Clean Water Council's (CWC) recommendations for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. MCGA represents nearly 7,000 family farm members.

We encourage the council and the legislature to continue to find ways to maximize CWF dollars for on the ground projects and are excited to see an increase in those types of projects in this bill. We are happy to see a few of the programs listed below being recommended, including new programs, that will allow Minnesota farmers to implement soil health practices that work best for their farm.

Conservation Equipment Assistance- We are excited to see a grant program proposed that would help farmers purchase equipment as they look at ways to improve soil health practices on their farm. The upfront cost of retrofitting or buying new equipment is often one of the biggest barriers to farmers as they look for ways to implement different tillage, cover cropping or nutrient management systems on their farms. Every farm is different and there are a number of soil health practices that farmers can implement that will also help to improve water quality. Giving farmers flexibility to implement soil health practices ranging from no or reduced tillage, cover crops or manure management that best fits their operation will accelerate farmer adoption.

AgBMP Loan Program- Expanding the AgBMP Loan Program complements the Conservation Equipment Assistance Program as well as multiple other cost-share programs that will allow Minnesota Farmers to take advantage of the low interests loans and begin to implement soil health practices to benefit clean water.

MDA Technical Assistance – We appreciate the Council's and the legislature's continued support for this program as it funds research for on-farm demonstrations like Discovery Farms that increases education and promotion of best management practices on the farm.

Expanding the Ag Weather Station Network- Establishing these weather stations will give farmers the local information they need to make the best possible agronomic decisions regarding planting dates, crop protection timing, and more. This detailed local information will create opportunities to reduce chemical applications. More precise information on disease risk due to weather conditions means

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farmers can delay disease prevention applications until risk is high in their area. Additional, information on when weather conditions are favorable for effective crop protectant application means less unusable applications.

Thank you for considering our input on SF 1682 We look forward to working with Chair Hawj and the committee as the bill works its way through the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Syverson".

Richard Syverson
President
Minnesota Corn Growers Association