



**LAND
STEWARDSHIP
PROJECT**

LEWISTON OFFICE
180 East Main St, Box 130
Lewiston, MN 55952
507-523-3366

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE
821 East 35th St, #200
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-722-6377

MONTEVIDEO OFFICE
117 South 1st St
Montevideo, MN 56265
320-269-2105

March 4th, 2024

Chair Rest and Members of the Senate Taxes Committee,

The Land Stewardship Project's (LSP) mission is to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, promote sustainable agriculture, and develop healthy communities. LSP represents over 4,500 households in Minnesota – primarily farmers and rural residents, as well as urban and suburban allies. Land Stewardship Project's greatest priorities are keeping small and mid-sized farmers on the land, increasing the number of farmers stewarding the land, and advancing the adoption of sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices.

I write in support today of Senate File 4422 to increase long term funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts to \$16 million to bolster and sustain the critical roles and programs they provide.

Our members have a keen interest in restoring and regenerating our soils, working to ensure all farmers have the resources they need to farm in ways that benefit their operations, their land and more broadly, our communities.

Working directly with farmers and landowners, SWCDs have been able to create innovative, ground breaking programs and offerings to spread more resilient farming practices. The support farmers and landowners receive in both programmatic offerings and technical assistance from their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts are a critical piece to ensuring more soil health practices across our state are adopted to better protect and enhance our soil, water, and climate.

On behalf of our members, we urge you to support this increase in funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Sincerely,

Laura Schreiber
Policy Organizer
Land Stewardship Project

