



# MASWCD

## Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

100 Empire Drive, Suite 205, St. Paul, MN 55103 | 651-690-9028 | [www.maswcd.org](http://www.maswcd.org)

PRESIDENT  
CHARLES RAU  
Rice, MN  
(320) 493-9503  
[chuck.rau@maswcd.org](mailto:chuck.rau@maswcd.org)

VICE PRESIDENT &  
SW AREA 5 DIRECTOR  
CLARK LINGBEEK  
Comfrey, MN  
(507) 920-9884  
[clark.lingbeek@maswcd.org](mailto:clark.lingbeek@maswcd.org)

SECRETARY/TREASURER &  
SC AREA 6 DIRECTOR  
MARK SCHNOBRICH  
Hutchinson, MN  
(320) 587-3760  
[mark.schnobrich@maswcd.org](mailto:mark.schnobrich@maswcd.org)

NW AREA 1 DIRECTOR  
RANDY SCHELLACK  
Glyndon, MN  
(701) 238-8121  
[randy.schellack@maswcd.org](mailto:randy.schellack@maswcd.org)

WC AREA 2 DIRECTOR  
TOM GREGORY  
Kimball, MN  
320-398-7312  
[tom.gregory@maswcd.org](mailto:tom.gregory@maswcd.org)

NE AREA 3 DIRECTOR  
JAKE JANSKI  
Milaca, MN  
(320) 241-0728  
[jake.janski@maswcd.org](mailto:jake.janski@maswcd.org)

METRO AREA 4 DIRECTOR  
LAURA ZANMILLER  
West St. Paul, MN  
(651) 270-2856  
[laura.zanmiller@maswcd.org](mailto:laura.zanmiller@maswcd.org)

SE AREA 7 DIRECTOR  
RANDY SMITH  
Adams, MN  
(507) 438-4570  
[randy.smith@maswcd.org](mailto:randy.smith@maswcd.org)

NC AREA 8 DIRECTOR  
KEN LAPORTE  
Pillager, MN  
(218) 746-3927  
[ken.laporte@maswcd.org](mailto:ken.laporte@maswcd.org)

IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT  
PAUL KRABBENHOFT  
Moorhead, MN  
(701) 799-0369  
[paul.krabbenhof@maswcd.org](mailto:paul.krabbenhof@maswcd.org)

### STAFF

Executive Director  
LEANN BUCK

Assistant Director  
SHEILA VANNEY

Conference & Events Manager  
MICHELE ASMUSSEN

Office Manager  
STEFANIE MARTINEZ

April 30, 2024

Senator Ann Rest, Chair  
Senate Taxes Committee  
328 Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155

### RE: Senate File 5234 A2-DE - Omnibus Tax Bill

Dear Chair Rest and Senate Taxes Committee Members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the 2024 Senate Omnibus Tax Bill. MASWCD represents the state's locally elected SWCD boards and their professional staff.

### Background

The inclusion of SWCD Aid in the 2023 tax bill established a desperately needed standing, statutory appropriation of general funds from the Department of Revenue to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), similar to state aids for other elected units of local government. Distributed to the state's 88 SWCDs as well as Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, we are tremendously grateful for SWCD Aid and the recognition it represents for the important work of SWCD boards and their professional staff toward clean water and healthy soil.

Our 2023 request was \$22 million per year, an amount that though not solving SWCD funding challenges, would have been gotten us closer to meeting our statewide shortfall. The funding amounts for SWCD Aid were set at \$15 million per year for 2023 and 2024, and \$12 million per year for 2025 and beyond. This decrease to \$12 million, the level of funding SWCDs received the four years prior to the establishment of SWCD Aid, presents significant challenges. Senate File 4422 carried by Sen. Hauschild, sets out a path to prevent this fiscal cliff and would set the appropriation amount in statute to \$16 million for aids payable in 2025 and beyond.

### Supplemental 2024 SWCD Aid

With that background, we greatly appreciate the Supplemental 2024 SWCD Aid Distribution set out starting on line 46.23 of the bill. An additional \$2 million in one-time funding in calendar year 2024 is a meaningful step in the direction of more adequately funding SWCDs as they implement their statutory duties. While we continue to look for opportunities to improve the funding for 2025 and beyond, we support this supplemental funding provision and look forward to staying engaged on this issue in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Chuck Rau  
MASWCD President