



minnesota
well owners organization

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March 20, 2025

Chairman Sen Aric Putnam

Minnesota Senate Committee on Agricultural, Veterans, Broadband and Rural
Development

Room 3215 Senate Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: MNWOO endorses SF1183 Gustafson, Xiong, Nelson, Putnam, Miller –
Appropriations Nitrate Private Well Mitigation.**

Chairman Putnam:

The Minnesota Well Owners Organization wants to support SF1183—
Appropriations for Nitrate Private Well Mitigation.

The proposed appropriations to assist households that rely on private wells
contaminated above the 10mg/L Health Risk Limit for Nitrate are critical to the
needs of local farms and rural farmsteads.

According to the best estimates, 25% of the local population relies on private
wells. An estimated 93,000 people in over 40,400 households share the nitrate-
contaminated karst aquifers with our neighbors and surrounding towns. The
percentage of wells with high nitrates varies from 10% to 40% based on Township
statistics from the Ag Department Township Testing program. The nitrate risks are
now well understood based on the geologic setting and well construction.

MNWOO estimates that 60% of wells have a higher risk because they are shallow
and pre-date the well codes that safer well construction with casing and grouting
to isolate contaminated water.

New free water testing programs funded last year with Clean Water Legacy Funds are now showing how many households need water treatment or well mitigation to ensure safe and healthy drinking water.

MNWOO has been continuing our water testing clinics across the state, where we offer free nitrate screening, chloride analysis, and arsenic testing, and well users can consult with water professionals about their water tests and wells. We visit with hundreds of well users, and we hear their biggest fears are not having safe water and not having the financial resources for water treatment or well replacement. Too many of these households continue to drink nitrate-contaminated water or buy bottled water, the most expensive option for safe water.

Last weekend at our most recent nitrate clinic in Spring Grove, ninety-eight well owners brought drinking water for nitrate screening. Six percent of the wells tested exceeded the nitrate Health Risk Limit. These well owners were eager to hear of opportunities for technical assistance and financial assistance in choosing water treatment.

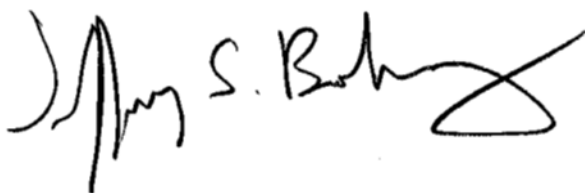
SF1183 begins to address the needs of rural households facing contamination of drinking water from our shared aquifers. We appreciate the efforts of this Committee to highlight the needs and provide practical solutions to ensure safe drinking water.

MNWOO supports HSF1183 and thanks you all for being so supportive of rural households with private wells.

Sincerely

Jeffrey S. Broberg, MnLPG 30018, MA

Director Minnesota Well Owners Organization (MNWOO)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Broberg", with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.