



February 24, 2025

Senator Fount Hawj  
95 University Avenue West  
Minnesota Senate Building  
Room 3231  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Hawj,

Thank you for hearing Senate File 1375 related to the River Watch Program at the Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee on February 25, 2025. The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) strongly supports Senate File 1375 and is providing a cash match of \$340,000 for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. According to our financial records, the RRWMB has provided cash match for the River Watch Program since at least 1997.

The RRWMB continues to support the efforts of the International Water Institute as they deliver this important Program to high school students in the Red River Basin. Delivery of this Program is an important component of environmental education to our high school students. We look forward to continued support for the River Watch Program with the State of Minnesota in partnership with the International Water Institute, school districts in the Red River Basin, and the RRWMB.

We also thank the bill authors, Senator Rob Kupec and Senator Jordan Rasmusson for introducing and supporting Senate File 1375. We greatly appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate File 1375. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Finney".

John Finney  
President, RRWMB

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Sip".

Robert L. Sip  
Executive Director, RRWMB

**CC:** Senator Rob Kupec  
Senator Jordan Rasmusson