



April 9, 2025

Senator Fount Hawj
Chair, Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3231
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hawj:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Senate Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Budget and Policy Bill (Senate File 2077, as amended).

BWSR works in partnership with federal, state, Tribal and local governments, and with landowners to achieve its mission to improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources. We appreciate the committee's difficult task of budgeting for the state's environmental priorities over the next biennium, as reflected in the omnibus bill.

We thank the committee for including the Governor's recommended operating adjustment for our agency to help maintain a level of service in our efforts. Minnesotans value their natural resources and care about clean water, climate impacts, and productive use of their land and infrastructure. We have appreciated the opportunities this session to share BWSR's work and outcomes with you all.

As the omnibus bill makes its way forward, we would ask to include additional clarity on a policy item requiring BWSR to gather the number of local government time extensions granted in a two-year period for wetland impact proposals. In particular, we recommend adjusting the dates to reflect collecting the information on a calendar year versus a fiscal year.

Once again, thank you to the committee for recognizing the importance of working with local governments and other partners to improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources.

Sincerely,

John Jaschke
Executive Director
Board of Water and Soil Resources

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