

April 22, 2025

Senator John Marty Chair, Senate Finance Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3235 95 University Ave W St. Paul, MN 55155 Senator Eric Pratt Ranking Minority Member, Senate Finance Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2217 95 University Ave W St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Marty and Senator Pratt:

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 difficult task of budgeting for the state's environmental priorities over the next biennium, as reflected in the omnibus bill.

We thank Senator Hawj and the Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee for including the Governor's recommended operating adjustment for our agency to help maintain a level of service in our efforts. We also support the inclusion of the consensus recommendation from the Drainage Work Group to repeal a duplicative reporting requirement.

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 the committee.

Once again, thank you for recognizing the importance of working with local 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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