

April 3, 2024

Chair Samantha Vang Minnesota House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee 545 State Office Building Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for nitrate treatment funding in HF5229

Chair Vang committee members,

As you consider appropriations for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in <u>HF5229</u>, we urge you to support the \$3 million for nitrate treatment recommended in line 6.1.

This funding would provide in-home water treatment systems for domestic wells with elevated nitrate and thereby provide safe drinking water to rural Minnesotans – especially those with a demonstrated financial need who could not otherwise afford to treat water or purchase an alternative drinking water source on their own.

We believe this appropriation is an important response to an immediate health concern, and we appreciate your support in providing clean drinking water to those who need it most.

Thank you for considering this recommendation, and for your work for the State of Minnesota.

Michelle Stockness, PE

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**Executive Director, Freshwater**