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June 15, 2020

The Honorable Rick Hansen
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division

Dear Chair Hansen and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, we would like to raise two issues contained in HF28.

First, we would like to thank you for again including the per diem increase for SWCD supervisors. We have appreciated your support for Rep. Marquart's bill and especially the comments you made when the bill was first heard in Environment Policy back in February.

Second, we would like your assistance with Art. 2, Section 1. on lines 13.3 through 13.7 - the Soil and Water Conservation Fund. We believe strongly that the language should include the word "District" after the word "Conservation" to ensure it is clear for whom the funds are intended.

We would suggest the following language:

Subd. 4. Soil and Water Conservation District Fund. There is created in the state treasury a soil and water conservation district fund as a special revenue fund for deposit of appropriations, revenue dedicated to benefit soil and water conservation districts, and other revenue sources.

These changes would also make it consistent with the [Administration's explanation of the drafted language](#) and accompanying spreadsheets and bill summaries provided during regular session. It is our understanding that the Board of Water and Soil Resources supports the changes.

Thank you again for your support, for the inclusion of the per diem language and for consideration of this additional and important clarification for the Soil and Water Conservation Fund.

Sincerely,

Roland Cleveland
MASWCD President