

FRESHWATER

April 2, 2024

Chair Leon Lillie
Minnesota House Legacy Finance Committee
365 State Office Building
St Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Clean Water Council supplemental funding recommendations

Chair Lillie and committee members,

As you consider supplemental appropriations from the Clean Water Fund, we urge you to support the Clean Water Council's recommendations, which were informed by two years of stakeholder input and approved unanimously on March 18.

With more than \$25 Million available for appropriation, this is an important opportunity to make headway on clean water issues across the state.

Supporting the work of the Clean Water Council is a top priority for Freshwater. Our staff members regularly attend the Council meetings, and we know firsthand the thoughtful discussion and careful consideration Council members have given these latest recommendations.

We believe the Clean Water Council recommendations achieve the following:

- Address urgent water issues such as **nitrate contamination of private drinking water wells**, and **chloride pollution of lakes and streams** from excessive application of deicing salt.
- Provide a **long-term monitoring network** for Minnesota waters, which will help track the progress of state efforts to improve land-use practices.
- Fund **conservation easements** on private lands to protect and restore water quality.
- Reinforce support for the **Clean Water Council** and its careful stewardship of the Clean Water Fund, which is a nation-leading model for water conservation.

In 2023, the Legislature recognized the work of the Council and passed their appropriation as recommended. We encourage you to do the same this year and uphold the integrity of the Clean Water Council vetting process.

Thank you for considering these recommendations, and for helping to protect Minnesota waters.



Michelle Stockness, PE
Executive Director, Freshwater

2550 University Ave Suite 212N | St. Paul, MN 55114 | 651.313.5800 | freshwater.org

Freshwater is a nonprofit organization working to inspire and empower people to value and preserve water.