

# FRESHWATER

April 14, 2024

Chair Aric Putnam  
Minnesota Senate Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development  
3215 Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

## Re: Support for nitrate response and soil health funding in HF3955-A3-DE-amendment

Chair Putnam and committee members,

We appreciate your work in addressing nitrate pollution and soil health issues in southeastern Minnesota this legislative session. While these issues persist across many parts of our state, the karst region is especially vulnerable to contamination of underground aquifers, the source of private drinking water wells for thousands of Minnesotans.

The DE amendment to SF3955 dated April 13, 2024, contains several funding provisions that are critical to providing safe drinking water to those who need it most, while also helping farmers purchase and upgrade equipment for soil health practices.

As you consider the appropriations outlined in SF3955, we strongly support the following items:

- **Line 1.19** – \$750,000 to the Department of Agriculture for home water treatment in southeastern Minnesota, prioritizing lower income and at-risk households.
- **Line 2.3** – \$500,000 for the [soil health financial assistance program](#), for projects located in southeastern Minnesota.
- **Line 34.26** – \$2 million to the Department of Health to establish a mitigation program for contaminated wells in southeastern Minnesota.

These strategies represent an important first step toward addressing nitrate in southeastern Minnesota, and additional funding will be needed in the next biennial budget to implement the [state agency work plan](#). We look forward to continue working with you on this matter, and we thank you for your commitment to clean water.

Sincerely,



Michelle Stockness, PE  
Executive Director, Freshwater

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