

FRESHWATER

April 29, 2024

Chair Sandra L. Pappas
Capital Investment Committee
2113 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for clean water investments in SF5251

Chair Pappas and committee members,

At Freshwater, we believe that all Minnesotans should have access to clean drinking water – regardless of whether that water comes from metropolitan water systems, rural and community water systems, or from private drinking water wells.

This session's capital improvement bill is an opportunity to make important strides toward providing needed water infrastructure and safeguarding groundwater for millions of people across the state.

As you consider the appropriations outlined in SF5251, we strongly support the following items:

- **Line 7.31** – \$6 million to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve program, which funds conservation easements that restore and protect lands, benefiting water quality in rural Minnesota.
- **Line 15.4** – \$57 million to the Public Facilities Authority to assist Minnesota communities in funding critical drinking water, wastewater and other infrastructure projects.
- **Line 21.14** – Establishing a Statewide Drinking Water Contamination Mitigation program for communities most at risk.
- **Line 22.22** – Establishing a Secondary Sources of Drinking Water Grant Program that would allow for backup to community water systems in case of a disruptive event such as a well failure or contamination.

Thank you for making water a priority in this year's capital improvement bill, and we appreciate your work on behalf of Minnesota.

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.