

FRESHWATER

March 18, 2025

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

Re: Support for nitrate mitigation in private wells (SF1183)

Chair Putnam and committee members,

As you consider general fund appropriations for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, we urge you to support funding for nitrate mitigation in private wells as recommended in SF1183.

This funding would provide in-home water treatment systems, or well repair and reconstruction, for domestic wells with elevated nitrate in southeastern Minnesota. In this vulnerable region, an estimated 9,200 people rely on drinking water from private wells that does not meet federal health standards for nitrate.

We believe that providing safe drinking water to rural Minnesotans – especially those who cannot afford to treat their water or replace a contaminated well – should be a top priority for our state.

With state agencies now implementing the public health intervention phase of the [Work Plan: Addressing Nitrate in Southeast Minnesota](#), this appropriation will build on the important work accomplished last session. 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
Executive Director, Freshwater