

# FRESHWATER

March 9, 2026

Chair Founj Hawj  
Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee  
1150 Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

## **Re: Opposition to SF 2442 Outdoor use of rainwater and stormwater provision**

Chair Hawj and committee members,

At Freshwater, we believe that well-rounded perspectives based in science are essential for ensuring clean and safe water for everyone across the state. We also promote the development of the circular water economy and strongly support water conservation, water reuse, and water recharge practices.

We oppose bill SF2442 which may prohibit state agencies or local units of government from establishing water treatment standards for the use of rainwater or stormwater for outdoor purposes such as irrigation. There is a process in place to develop best practices and evaluate risks for rainwater and stormwater use, and we would rather see that process continue instead of legislating a one-size-fits-all solution.

Since 2015 an interagency team of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR), the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has been meeting to help provide guidelines for water reuse across the state. This team has authored several reports on best practices and recommendations for water reuse, and has found that using untreated stormwater and rainwater for irrigation may have health risks when humans are exposed to it. Multiple cities and watershed districts are already treating stormwater and rainwater for outdoor use to manage their risk and liability per this list of [Minnesota reuse projects](#) in the Minnesota Stormwater Manual. This bill SF2442 would circumvent this process, and eliminate the science-based stakeholder and water quality professional input and individual project risk analysis we have been encouraging for the past few years.

We strongly support the reuse of stormwater and rainwater but oppose the prescriptive broad-brush approach of SF2442 and recommend continuing the existing process of evaluating risks with agencies and stakeholders, rather than upend the current process.

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 protect water.