



Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Conference Committee (S.F. 4062/H.F. 4492):

I'm writing on behalf of Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC), and our 35 member counties in appreciation of the effort you've invested this year on issues important to rural counties. We also appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on provisions before the committee as you craft a conference report.

PROVISIONS SUPPORTED:

- **SCORE Grant Funding** (Senate Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(b)): MRC appreciates the provision increasing the SCORE grant funding base by \$700,000. This funding will help implement and improve programs, resulting in better waste outcomes.
- **404 Assumption** (Senate Art.1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3): MRC appreciates the inclusion of funding for preparation of materials and application for assumption of Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting. This provision will assist the cooperation of state and federal agency stakeholders to eliminate redundant permitting requirements.
- **Public Waters Inventory (PWI) Revisions** (Senate Art. 2, Sec. 31): MRC supports this provision to ensure the local government review of water reclassifications established Minnesota Statute 103G.201 (c) is applicable to all changes of a water's classification.
- **Use of Proceeds from Sales of Tax-Forfeited Lands** (House Art. 2, Sec. 76 & Senate Art. 2, Sec. 64): MRC supports the House provision granting counties the option to use receipts from the sale of tax-forfeited lands for remediation efforts. The funding provides a measure of relief by mitigating some of the financial burden tax forfeit land management shifts to the broader community.
- **PWI Regulatory Application** (Senate Art. 2, Sec. 60): MRC supports this provision to clarify in statute that the PWI tells counties what waters are subject to mandatory environmental assessment worksheets (EAW).

PROVISIONS OPPOSED:

- **Drainage Registry Information Portal** (House Art. 2, Sec. 34): MRC opposes additional state reporting and suspension of regular, necessary work in a drainage system that is caused by this language.

Thank you for your consideration of the MRC perspective on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Larson', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Dan Larson, Executive Director
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