CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
75 Elm Street East, P.O.BOX 481
Annandale, MN 55302
(320) 274-3935 | www.crwd.org

April 5, 2017

The Honorable XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
95 University Avenue W
Minnesota Senate Bldg., XXXXXXXXXX
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXX,

The Clearwater River Watershed District Board of Managers strongly supports the portion of Senate Bills 210 that amends Minnesota Statute 446A.073 to both include much needed funding for the Point Source Implementation Grants (PSIG) Program and to increase the grant award under PSIG from 50% to 80% of the cost of water infrastructure project. We encourage your support of this portion of the bill in the Senate.

Members in our District are served by Small Community Wastewater Systems that became operational in 2005. Residential properties (approximately 112) are connected via collection systems to common points where advanced wastewater treatment occurs and the water recycled back to the soil. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has recently placed stricter standards on these systems' operating permit for nitrogen reduction due to its nitrogen policy.

This presents a significant cost in excess of $10,000 per homeowner for the required treatment upgrades to meet the MPCA's stricter permit standards, especially considering the age of the systems. The provisions contained in Senate Bill 210 increase the grant amount available from the state for these types of situations to 80% of eligible project costs under the Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) program, and to provide funding for the program.

We urge you to support the PSIG program by approving its funding and increasing grant funding up to 80% of eligible project costs. Furthermore, as you and your colleagues discuss funding the PSIG program, we encourage you to increase the funding level to the maximum extent practical. This will have a positive impact to the residents and continue to protect the water resources of not only the Clearwater River Watershed District, but the State of Minnesota as a whole.

On behalf of the Board of Managers,

Cole Loewen
Administrator
Clearwater River Watershed District