

Joint Counties

Natural Resources Board

Aitkin ~ Beltrami ~ Clearwater ~ Koochiching ~ Lake of the Woods ~ Mahnommen ~ Marshall ~ Roseau

Beltrami County Conference Room
701 Minnesota Avenue, NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com

June 26, 2015

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

The member counties of the Joint Counties Natural Resource Board (JCNRB) and I wish to thank you for your vote on Senate Amendment 347 to the Senate Budget.

The Board consists of county commissioners representing the eight counties on this letterhead. Their purpose is to gather information on and formulate policies for the development, utilization and protection of natural resources in northern Minnesota, and to ensure that there is an interrelated plan for the use and protection of both public and private resources. We monitor local, State and Federal issues that relate to environment, land use and natural resources, believing in a balanced and fair approach to the protection of public and private resources.

As county commissioners we have been actively monitoring and supporting clarity for the term "Waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act. We agree with the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency on redefining the proposed language. We also support the positions taken by the National Association of Counties and the Association of Minnesota Counties.

In closing, we believe the proposed rule is not a balanced and fair approach for local governments or property owners and will surely be additional time and money trying to obtain permits that have been previously local or county powers. It is our hope that you will also support S.1140 to ensure that this costly federal overreach does not negatively impact farmers, taxpayers, counties and local governments across Minnesota; as we all know one size is not a true fit for all.

With appreciation,

Gary Kiesow
Marshall County Commissioner
JCNRB Chairman