



## **DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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### **SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)**

**WHEREAS**, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) provides outstanding opportunities for agricultural producers and the environment by compensating landowners for protecting sensitive areas such as steep fields, stream corridors and groundwater zones

**WHEREAS**, CREP can assist in sustaining and enhancing the economic growth of rural Minnesota through short term and long term direct payments to landowners while providing significant environmental benefits.

**WHEREAS**, CREP provides a win-win opportunity to partner with federal, state, local government and landowners to achieve long-term environment and natural resource benefits

**WHEREAS**, CREP leverages state and federal funds through the State of Minnesota's RIM Reserve Program and federal funding through the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District supports a CREP proposal that is a voluntary program that offers choices to landowners including limited and permanent easements to implement conservation practices in areas that provide the greatest environmental benefit. Permanent easements are critical for wetland restorations, as it is in the interest to conserve these resources in perpetuity.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District encourages the Secretary of Agriculture and the Minnesota Congressional Delegation to support the Governor's CREP application.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District also encourages Dakota County and Minnesota Legislators to support the RIM bonding package necessary to implement the CREP.