SF4304 Outdoor heritage fund Appropriation and prior appropriations extension and modification

Testimony Opposing Funding for the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Kurt Kveen, and I am both a proud landowner and farmer in Roseau County. For 14 years, my family has opposed the Roseau River Watershed District and its proposed project. Throughout this time, we've consulted many professionals and experts, all of whom agreed that this project would flood our farmland. We have fought tirelessly to protect our farms. Initially, we were told the project was for flood control, then later it was described as a duck habitat. The true purpose remains unclear, but in reality, it will mean intentional flooding of our fields without any plan for remediation.

Is this fair? My family has homesteaded and farmed this land since the 1890s. What hurts most is seeing my father and uncle enter retirement—after working these fields their entire lives—only to face the prospect that their land may be flooded. Not a day has passed in the last 14 years without our family discussing this situation, always hoping for better news or a solution to protect our land.

We take immense pride in our land—it's not something we inherited lightly. My father and uncle bought this land, and now I own it. I respect their vision; they wanted something special to pass on to future generations. Unfortunately, their retirement has been marked by frustration, stress, and fear. When this began, my father was 70, and now he is 84.

These are significant issues that deeply impact real families. Please stop funding this project and give us and our neighbors the chance to save our farms. I believe that, with the facts and truth on our side, we can save our home and our rights.

Sincerely,

Kurt Kveen

Roseau, MN