November 1, 2013

Representative Ron Kresha
329 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Annie Felix-Gerth
Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Draft of 2013 Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan

Dear Ms. Felix-Gerth,

I am writing to you with concerns about the process for creating the draft of the 2013 Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan (NFMP). As a member of the Agriculture Policy Committee, I hope that we will have a chance to fully discuss the objectives of the 2013 NFMP and the process for review, comment, and completion.

As you may well be aware, farmers today are using advance technology and efficiency to reach the optimal rates of nitrogen fertilizer. It is not in their best interest from an environmental nor economic standpoint to be applying nitrogen fertilizer in a careless or inefficient manner. Furthermore, there are many sources of nitrogen than just fertilizer, and all of these sources need to be reviewed and their implications on our drinking wells.

I realize the importance of maintain our safe water supply, but I suggest we move forward in a manner that is transparent and fully discussed with all the stakeholders and legislators.

One first step is that the Agriculture Policy committee should fully understand the process and goals of revising the 1990 NFMP. What, if any, parts are out of date? What specifically needs to be changed? What are the intended consequences and what are the unintended consequences? Before we jump to conclusions and revisions, I suggest we proceed with caution.

If there are any questions, concerns, or further information, please forward them to my office. If there is a convenient time to meet to review the process, I would appreciate the chance to learn more about the process.

Sincerely,

Representative Ron Kresha