



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management

To: Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

From: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

**Re: Support for the proposal "Pollution of Surface Waters from Chloride in Groundwater"**

Dear Members of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources,

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) fully supports a proposal from the University of Minnesota to study impacts of pollution to lakes and streams from chloride-laden groundwater. We know that chloride pollution from winter deicing activities ends up polluting our lakes and streams and eventually ends up in our groundwater. But we don't know how, where, and when the source of pollution to streams and lakes actually comes from chloride-laden groundwater. Lakes and streams with high chlorides recorded year-round may be significantly impacted by interaction with polluted groundwater. This connection deserves research in order to better address the problem and quantify all chloride pollution sources.

Bassett Creek has some of the highest levels of chloride in the Twin City Metropolitan Area. Chloride is considered a "permanent" pollutant as there is no practical way to remove it from water and it only takes one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. This research project is one critical piece to fully understanding pollution sources to our lakes and streams so that plans can be developed to address each source.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact the BCWMC Administrator, Laura Jester, at 952-270-1990 or [laura.jester@keystonewaters.com](mailto:laura.jester@keystonewaters.com).

Sincerely,

Catherine Cesnik  
Chair