ISANTI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**110 Buchanan Street South**

**Cambridge, MN 55008**

**763-689-3271**

Dear Landowner,

As a property owner, we understand that you do your best to protect your investment and to care for the land and water resources that help you make a living. The Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is very grateful for your efforts.

In 2015, the State of Minnesota passed a new Buffer Strip Law which requires landowners to install 50 foot buffer strips along public waters and 16.5 foot buffer strips along public drainage ditches. Details about the law can be viewed online at: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html>

A preliminary review has identified that your property may not currently have the required buffer width for public waters and/or public ditches. The law requires compliance by November 1st, 2017 for public waters and November 1st, 2018 for public ditches. We would like to work with you at the local level as soon as possible to help you accomplish this goal and avoid any potential enforcement actions or fines issued by regulators.

What you should do next:

1. The SWCD is hosting an Open House on February 23rd, 2017 (see enclosed invitation). During the meeting we will explain the law, why you received this letter, and what should be done next.

**OR**

1. If you are unable to attend the meeting and believe that you already have the required buffer width please contact the SWCD to set up an appointment for verification. At that time we can issue a certificate of compliance.

**OR**

1. If you intend to plant a buffer on your own prior to the compliance date please let us know. We will make a note and check in closer to compliance deadlines.

As a landowner you are not obligated to contact or work with the SWCD office but please understand you are required to establish buffer strips by the required deadlines. Regardless, we will do everything we can to serve you promptly and to assist you in meeting the new Buffer Strip requirements. If you are an absentee landowner, please share this letter with your renter or operator.

It is our goal to help you better understand your options and to help you comply with these requirements.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Determan

Isanti SWCD, District Manager

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