

MINNESOTA COALITION ON GOVERNMENT INFORMATION
Written Testimony of Matt Ehling, MNCOGI board member, on HF 701
House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee
February 26, 2021

Dear Members of the House Civil Law Committee,

The Minnesota Coalition on Government Information (MNCOGI) writes to thank Rep. Lippert for offering the author's amendment that would clarify the data classification language in HF 701, which is before the committee this morning. That amendment modifies the bill's data classification language (see underlined section) to read:

Subd. 6a. **Soil-healthy farming data.** (a) Farmer names, locations, and contact information collected and maintained by the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the University of Minnesota, or Soil and Water Conservation Districts that are associated with soil health data collected under section 103C.703 are classified as private or nonpublic. Farmer names, locations, and contact information collected and maintained by the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the University of Minnesota, or Soil and Water Conservation Districts that are associated with grant applications or payments under section 103C.702 are public data.

The new language clarifies that the identity of farmers who apply for or receive payments via the grant mechanism established by the bill would remain "public" data, and thus would add traceability to the expenditure of state funds under the bill.

MNCOGI thanks Representative Lippert for adding this additional, clarifying language to HF 701.

Sincerely,

Matt Ehling
MNCOGI board member