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For immediate release

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### **REP. RAY COX NAMED MASWCD LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR**

ST. PAUL - Rep. Ray Cox (R-District 25 B) was named the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Legislator of the Year Dec. 1 at the MASWCD annual meeting in Bloomington.

When presenting the award, LeAnn Buck, MASWCD executive director, recognized Cox's work and his dedication as the chief author of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) New Century Initiative. This legislative initiative was a result of a two-year-long capacity and SWCD law modernization project undertaken by MASWCD. The legislation included changes to the current law dealing with the areas of soil conservation policy, the petition and referendum provision, delegation of authority, and funding.

Rep. Cox provided leadership and assistance to address the diverse aspects of this legislation, Buck noted. "His work provides opportunities for SWCDs to continue to address changing conservation issues throughout the state," she said.

MASWCD's 67th annual meeting was held Nov. 30-Dec. 2 in Bloomington. Members of the state's SWCDs (including district staff and supervisors), along with conservation groups, state agencies, and other officials attended the meeting.

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