

March 26, 2025

Re: Support of H.F. 1482 – Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriation Bill

Dear Co-Chairs Fischer and Heintzeman and Members of the Committee,

We ask you to pass this bill that reflects the recommendations of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Natural Resources.

Environmental organizations statewide are dedicated to protecting the people and places Minnesotans love. The Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund furthers this mission by providing over \$900 million in innovative funding for natural resource management projects. Last November, Minnesota voters overwhelmingly voted to continue sending a portion of the state lottery proceeds to the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund. With 77% approval, Minnesotans continued our special state tradition of environmental stewardship.

The Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund benefits current citizens and future generations by providing long-term, consistent, and stable funding for projects to protect, conserve, and enhance Minnesota's "air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources." While it is challenging to summarize the accomplishments of projects over more than thirty years, since 1991, the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund has provided approximately \$1.1 billion to over 1,700 projects benefiting every county in the state.

Every year, Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars contribute to Minnesotans having cleaner water, healthier forests and prairies, world-class hiking and biking trails, cutting-edge natural resources research institutions, enriching and educational environmental programming, and abundant fish and wildlife. The Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund helps all types of entities from all over Minnesota to protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's natural resources: small towns to large urban cities, counties, and watershed districts, Minnesota's colleges and universities, non-profits and private companies, and federal and state agencies.

Some of the many accomplishments that the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund has been instrumental in funding:

- Supporting critical research developing tools to detect and combat Chronic Wasting Disease
- Establishing long-term lake ecosystem monitoring through the creation of the DNR's Sentinel Lakes program
- Facilitating ground-breaking research to prevent, detect, and mitigate invasive species
- Reintroducing bison
- Introducing tens of thousands of students to wilderness canoeing
- Building and improving hundreds of miles of trails, including the Superior Hiking Trail, Mesabi Trail, and Glacial Edge Trail.

We appreciate and acknowledge the extensive vetting done by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota's Natural Resources. The breadth of projects in H.F. 1482 is critical

to protecting and enhancing Minnesota's environment and natural resources. We are proud to support the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund and ask you to pass this clean appropriations bill that reflects the recommendations of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Natural Resources.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Sustainability	Northern Waters Land Trust
Audubon Upper Mississippi River	Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
Austin Audubon Society	Prairie Lakes Audubon Chapter
Austin Coalition for Environmental Sustainability	Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota
Central Minnesota Audubon Society	Pheasants Forever, Inc
Citizens' Climate Lobby Minnesota	Pollinator Friendly Alliance
Climate Land Leaders	Quails Forever
Clean Water Action	Rainbow Research
Conservation Minnesota	St. Paul Bird Alliance
COPAL	The Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
CURE	The Conservation Fund
Ducks Unlimited	The Nature Conservancy
Environmental Initiative	Northeastern Minnesota Bird Alliance
Environmental Justice Coordinating Council	The Sustainable Farming Association of MN
Freshwater	Trout Unlimited
Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas	Trust for Public Land
Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness	Urban Bird Collective
Friends of the Mississippi River	Vote Climate
Great River Greening	White Earth Land Recovery Project
Izaak Walton League – MN Division	Wild River Audubon
Lakeville Friends of the Environment	Zumbro Valley Audubon Society
League of Women Voters – Duluth	
League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region ILO	
League of Women Voters of Minnesota	
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy	
Minnesota Conservation Federation	
Minnesota Environmental Partnership	
Minnesota Land Trust	
Minnesota Ornithologists Union	
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter	
Minnesota Valley Trust	
Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society	
MN350	