



March 13, 2025

Subject: OPPOSE HF 253

Mr. Chair and members of the committee,

Clean Water Action was founded in 1972 with a mission to protect the land we live on, the air we breathe, and the water we drink. Representing tens of thousands of Minnesotans, I am writing to defend the Public Waters Inventory as it's currently in Minnesota Statute. Our mission is to ensure that all water is drinkable, fishable, and swimmable for generations to come.

The weather this week has me absolutely crawling out of my skin to put my feet in cold, fresh water and warm sand. I bet if you all closed your eyes and focused you can probably smell exactly what a summer day next to a body of water in Minnesota smells like. It is joyful. It's why we live here and love it here – our beautiful water.

Public waters provide public benefits – benefits everyone in this room has enjoyed. I've heard a lot of talk this session about the culture of Minnesota and how we like to recreate and enjoy being outside in Minnesota. There is nothing more Minnesotan than our water.

We support keeping the public waters inventory as it passed last year. The Public Waters Inventory is important to Minnesota and ensuring it contains accurate information is vital. This is a good law, and public waters are entitled to protection. Upending this process now that people have been hired makes no sense.

You might have noticed a very large conversation about the need to make government more efficient taking place at multiple levels of government. I'm hard pressed to see how wasting government resources by stopping a program that is already in motion and requiring duplicative reports on the revision process and is efficient. The law as it is currently written gives Minnesota public waters the protection they deserve. It makes no sense to delay this work, it's been appropriated and is ready to go.

This law gives people who care about public waters a tool to know what is protected and public and what isn't. Removing money from the DNR to complete this project is irresponsible and wasteful.

We urge a no vote.

For Clean Water,

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