



## WILDERNESS INQUIRY

March 26, 2021

Rep. Leon Lillie  
Chair, Legacy Finance Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
365 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Lillie and Members of the House Legacy Finance Committee:

Thank you for the inclusion of Wilderness Inquiry's Canoemobile program (H.F. 1425) in the Omnibus Legacy bill. With your support, we will connect 11,000 underserved youth from across Minnesota to educational activities on local waterways. These place-based experiences engage youth with the history and culture of our state's natural resources and connect young learners to Minnesota's outdoor heritage.

Wilderness Inquiry's mission is to connect people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to each other and the natural world through shared outdoor adventures. Our Canoemobile program engages youth in rural, suburban, and urban communities across Minnesota through the 'floating classroom' of a 24-foot Voyageur canoe. By reducing barriers to outdoor participation, we are providing connections to community and the outdoors while investing in the social, emotional, and physical health of young people. Canoemobile has been demonstrated to improve persistence, environmental stewardship, and an interest in future science exploration and careers among youth participants.

We look forward to working together in the years ahead as we invest in the next generation of participants, users, and stewards of our state's public lands and waterways.

We appreciate your support for this important program.

Sincerely,

Kim Keprios, Executive Director  
Wilderness Inquiry