



Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
Chair Representative Rick Hansen
407 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 23, 2022

Dear Chair Hansen and Committee members,

We write to highlight the importance of the Clean Water Council process that has historically informed the spending of Clean Water fund dollars as the committee considers Clean Water fund appropriations in HF4377.

While the line items proposed in the delete-all amendment to HF4377 may be worthy projects that will help provide clean water and address water-related issues, the use of the Clean Water funds without vetting by the Clean Water Council misses an important opportunity to ensure the Clean Water Fund is used for projects that will provide the highest and best use for these constitutionally dedicated funds.

We support the recommendation process of the Clean Water Council for Clean Water Fund appropriations because the Council is comprised of citizen and legislative members chosen for their expertise and interest in the management of our water resources in Minnesota. Each two-year budget cycle, the Council goes through a rigorous and thorough months-long process to review and assemble a list of recommendations to the legislature for how the Clean Water Fund should be spent that reflect the current clean water priorities of the state.

We respectfully request the Clean Water Council be given the opportunity to review these projects in the course of their upcoming deliberations for the next fiscal cycle. Additionally, we acknowledge the Clean Water Fund should not be viewed as the sole funding source to address critical water issues. The Clean Water fund was created to supplement but not substitute the use of other funding sources like the state general fund or bonding for clean water and other activities. As a state rich with water resources and increasing challenges facing those resources, we must recognize the Clean Water Fund alone will not be enough to adequately address those challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Morse". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Steve Morse
Executive Director

Please see the signing organizations on the following page.

A.C.E.S. (Austin Coalition for Environmental Sustainability)

Audubon Minnesota

Clean River Partners

Clean Water Action Minnesota

Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas

Friends of the Mississippi River

Izaak Walton League Minnesota Division

Land Stewardship Project

League of Women Voters Minnesota

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

Minnesota Ornithologists Union

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

Minnesota Well Owners Organization

MN350

Pollinator Friendly Alliance

Save Lake Superior Association

Save Our Sky Blue Waters

The Nature Conservancy – Minnesota

Renewing the Countryside

Vote Climate

WaterLegacy