



January 11, 2021

Submitted electronically to Peter.strohmeier@house.mn
Environment and Natural Resources Finance & Policy Committee

Re: Support for HF 30 (Hansen) Environment and natural resources trust fund appropriation

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking up the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation so soon in this session. As you know, despite efforts to pass this appropriation last year, it was not passed by the legislature and many important projects were not able to proceed.

These funds, which amount to over \$60 million dollars, are constitutionally dedicated to projects that will protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's "air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources" for the benefit of current Minnesotans and future generations. ENRTF may solely be used for this constitutional purpose and no other.

The recommended projects went through an exhaustive vetting process and were selected by a bipartisan, bicameral commission with citizen input. There could not be a better time to make these investments: Minnesotans are turning to the outdoors in record numbers and the projects will create a minimum of 250 jobs in the near term. Furthermore, these dedicated funds do not affect the state's general fund budget. This money is already in hand and ready to be deployed for critical projects and purposes, including

- Cleaning-Up Pollution
- Restoring Habitat
- Increasing Climate Resiliency and Reducing Greenhouse Gases

We ask the Committee to support this bill so that these projects may move forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Morse".

Steve Morse
Executive Director

Audubon Minnesota
Cannon River Watershed Partnership
Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness
Friends of MN Scientific and Natural Areas
Friends of the Mississippi River
Izaak Walton League – Minnesota Division

League of Women Voters – Minnesota
Pollinator Friendly Alliance
Minnesota Ornithologists Union
Minnesota Trout Unlimited
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter
Minnesota Well Owners Association
Northern Waters Land Trust
St. Croix Oak Savanna Chapter
St. Croix River Association
The Trust for Public Land
Voyageurs Conservancy
Vote Climate
Wilderness in the City