

**m** MINNESOTA  
CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

May 8, 2024

The Hon. Rep. Leon Lillie  
Chair, House Legacy Finance Committee  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Room 365  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Hon. Sen. Fong Hawj  
Chair, Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy  
Finance Committee  
95 University Avenue West, Room 3231  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for HF4124 (Omnibus Legacy Finance Bill)

Dear Chair Lillie and Chair Hawj:

On behalf of the Clean Water Council, I would like to express appreciation for your work on the Legacy Finance bill.

The Clean Water Council has the statutory responsibility to recommend how to spend the Clean Water Fund, which is one-third of the dedicated sales tax revenue authorized by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

The February forecast shows a surplus in the Clean Water Fund of \$25,426,000.

Thank you for proposing the same dollar amounts for 99.8 percent of the Clean Water Council's recommendations. These investments will meet the state's commitment to protecting Minnesotans from PFAS in surface waters and fish. In addition, they will provide critical capacity to the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, and local governments to reduce nitrates in private drinking water wells in southeast Minnesota.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Paul Gardner  
Administrator



May 7, 2024

Via E-Mail Delivery

Rep. Leon Lillie, Chair  
365 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Foug Hawj, Chair  
3231 Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Lillie and Hawj and Members of the Conference Committee:

Thank you for your continued strong support of the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC).

We're grateful for the Legacy bill this year and look forward to providing additional funding to worthy organizations across the state.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to MHC if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. M. Lindsey".

Kevin Lindsey  
CEO

C: Conference committee members



**TO:** Rep. Leon Lillie, Chair  
Sen. Founj Hawj, Chair

**FROM:** Dave Osborne, MN-FISH Coalition

**DATE:** May 8, 2024

**RE:** Support Funding to Protect Minnesota’s Aquatic Habitat from Invasive Carp included in Legacy Finance bill

On behalf of the MN-FISH Coalition, I am writing to offer our organization’s strong support for the Lessard Sams Council recommending funding to protect the Upper Mississippi from invasive carp by beginning the process of partnering with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers in the construction of a barrier and deterrent system. The funding is included in the Legacy Finance bill.

As you know, Minnesota’s outdoor recreational community and industry are at serious risk if invasive carp continue to move upriver and spawn.

MN-FISH has been actively working and meeting with the DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials for the past 18 months, and a representative of the organization served on the DNR’s Strategic Decision-Making Working Group whose work was the basis for the updated Carp Management plan issued by the DNR earlier this year. On February 23, 2024, at a DNR Invasive Carp meeting with Commissioner Strommen and her team, our MN-Fish team presented a new collaborative approach to an Invasive Carp barrier at Lock and Dam 5 and best-practices from the invasive carp barrier implemented in Kentucky at Barclay Dam in 2019.

Research has shown that carp movement upstream is slow enough that it might be reduced to near zero (2 percent) using a multi-component approach, including the construction of a barrier, continued commercial fishing by the DNR, and other means. A carp deterrent would be added to the lock, ongoing carp removal would be enhanced at this location, and engineers would examine whether and how to adjust spillway gate openings to allow even fewer carp to pass—while native fish passage would be facilitated using a native fish elevator.

This plan is supported by the scientific community. Key elements have been published in four peer-reviewed scientific publications and assessed by Barr Engineering Company, which also found it reasonable and doable. Four stakeholder meeting conducted by Barr have also been supportive. Analyses suggest that adult invasive carp will be past lock and Dam 5 in just few short years and breeding in Lake Pepin—and then the St Croix River—if no action is taken. There is just enough time to stop them if we act now.

A plan exists that is capable of arresting would be the worst environmental disaster to strike Minnesota's waters since the zebra mussel. That's why we must act now and quickly.

We have appreciated working with Commissioner Strommen and her staff in finding solutions for Minnesota to respond to this environmental disaster, and MN-FISH also supports the agency's efforts to implement the updated Carp Management Plan.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

C: Conference committee members  
Mark Johnson, Executive Director



Saint Paul Neighborhood Network  
550 Vandalia Street, Suite 170  
Saint Paul, MN 55114  
Phone: 651.224.5153  
Fax: 651.298.8414  
[www.spnn.org](http://www.spnn.org)

## **Legacy Finance Bill**

Thank you Chair Lillie and Chair Hawj and members of the conference committee. SPNN is a community media center serving underrepresented individuals, including low-income individuals, new Americans, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities.

Annually 150 adults and 250 youth explore their creativity and learn professional skills while learning photography, audio storytelling, and video in our documentary programs, open access center, and youth programs. We run three documentary programs for first-time to emerging filmmakers, we have an open center where anyone can come use cameras, editing systems, and a four camera studio to create non commercial content. We have cohort programs for youth both after school and during the summer in addition to a drop in program.

Our production team collaborates to produce content that reflects and benefits the local community. For decades we have partnered with the League of Women Voters on candidate and issue forums, recorded local festivals and parades, like Rondo Days and Cinco de Mayo, elevated artists, local agriculture, and worked with the schools to highlight concerts, sporting events, and graduations.

Our Community Technology Empowerment Project stations up to 30 AmeriCorps members in nonprofits and libraries, teaching digital literacy skills to new Americans, low-income people, and other under-resourced communities.

For 40 years we have been a place where new American communities use our resources to create content for their communities, whether it was a weekly talk show for the Vietnamese community, to multiple Somali news programs. We partner with the disability community to create a monthly program. We partnered with the Hmong community on a documentary honoring the first wave Hmong immigrants. We host monthly camps for girl scouts to earn badges in video and photography.

Historically we received the majority of our funding from PEG fees from people subscribing to cable from Comcast Cable. As less people have cable television, the amount we receive continues to decline. Over the last decade we have worked hard to bring in grants to support our programs and earned revenue from our services and space. We are currently

working with the Carlson Business school students and Compass Pro Bono to broaden our reach and create new or build on our current revenue streams.

**Investment** from the Legacy Committee will allow us to continue our work and invest deeper in our community.

- We can increase the number of parades, community events, and productions we are able to do each year.
- We can invest in advanced video and audio storytelling resources for the community, providing high end gear and more classes and advanced workshops.
- We can develop an apprenticeship program for youth and adults to learn the necessary skills to become a part of the film community in MN.

Please support SPNN's efforts to continue and grow the impact we have on the Twin Cities community. Thank you, Chair Hawj and Chair Lillie and Members of the conference committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie H. Schumacher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bonnie Schumacher

Interim Executive Director of SPNN

## Home Heroes Legacy

**Action: Develop and produce a creative and innovative film series that solves multiple problems; educates and engages residents, communities and others on housing challenges and solutions; skill based knowledge and training in reserving and maintaining affordable homes for residents, provide stable housing and the ability to safely “Age in Place”, be healthy and thrive, prevent homelessness; increase opportunities of skills development; expand the workforce; create pathways to careers in housing, new business, and entrepreneur opportunities; add value to assets and generate tax revenues, generate income, and strengthen communities. Easy to understand life-saving information for all ages, including fire safety and responses, medical emergencies, public safety, the list goes on.**

### Other specifics with the film series:

#### Mission & Goals:

- Educational but entertaining for all ages.
- Be of “Disney quality”.
- Be a national model.
- Generate revenues to cover costs of further films needed, and earn funds to use towards housing solutions to existing housing and related problems
- Overcomes barriers:
  - Disabilities of reading and understanding of written words, hearing, and learning, housing barriers for persons with disabilities
  - Age or capacity of learners
  - Translation issues with translation tools
  - Lack of life-saving and other healthcare knowledge
  - Lack of safe housing, addressing housing problems, lack of knowledge and responses to crisis and emergencies, dealing with costs
  - Lack of healthy foods, lower costs of foods
  - Lack of workforce skills
  - Shortage of workers and jobs in housing and healthcare
  - Problems in transportation, dealing with costs

#### Topics include, but is not limited to:

- Affordable Housing, maintenance, repairs, renovations, building materials (hempcrete), tools > a “win-win” for residents, landlords, wealth and equity building, asset values, realtors, the city and state
- Safe Housing – disasters responses, fire, safety, safety plans, living near roads/construction
- Affordable Healthcare – telehealth, medical devices for home use, healthcare at the speed of AI, self-care, family assisted care, comprehensive first aid, going beyond CPR and 911. Mass learning of CPR, Heimlich maneuver, and other life-saving lessons
- Use of the Internet and communication tools
- Reductions in transportation barriers and costs
- Growing “Healthy Garden to Table” foods
- Workforce & Skills development
- Job & business creation (housing, healthcare, other)
- “Cutting edge”, Innovations, new technologies