

Dear Committee Chair Moran,

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to you, your fellow representatives, and your staff for important features included in the omnibus bill. It is an outstanding natural resource package, including features important to me:

Funding a lead tackle collection program to reduce the cumulative pollution of our lakes with lead tackle that poisons loons, swans, and other wildlife.

Funding and designation of swan resting areas and education and outreach regarding protection of native swans.

\$3.3 million in funding for Scientific and Natural Areas.

\$70,000 for the Nongame Wildlife Management Program.

Funding for the new Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Office to advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusivity. I am currently working to help preserve a grassland area in Maplewood important for native nesting songbirds and promoting new "birdability" facilities for blind and vision-impaired birders to hear the songs of nature along the margins of the grassland. This would be the first "birdability" site in Minnesota.

Clarifying turtle harvesting regulations to provide better protection of Minnesota turtles.

Eliminating use of lead shot for upland game hunting on DNR Wildlife Management Areas in the farmland zone. This is Wonderful news!! The continued use of lead ammunition for hunting upland game on our wildlife management areas amounts to making our public hunting lands a "dumping ground" for lead pollution which can subsequently poison wildlife for many decades to come. This continued use of lead ammunition on our WMAs also degrades the longstanding image of hunters as conservationists.

Again, thanks to you, your committee members, and your staff for all their tireless work on behalf of Minnesota's wildlife.

Sincerely,

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