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House Ways and Means Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Letter of Support for [HF2310 \(Hansen\)](#) - Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Bill

Dear Chair Olson, Vice Chair Edelson & all Committee Members:

Please strongly support and pass the important and historic House Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Bill. Spending and investment to protect our environment and natural resources in ways that sufficiently protect people and our many plant and wildlife species is crucial.

The House Session Daily story "*House panel approves omnibus bill that would make historic investment in environment*" dated March 29 at <https://www.house.mn.gov/SessionDaily/Story/17893> explained the bill's importance:

"The largest one-time investment in the environment in the history of the state.

That is how the chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee, Rep. Rick Hansen (DFL-South St. Paul), characterizes the omnibus bill he sponsors.

With millions of dollars and scores of policy provisions that would address issues such as park access, the emerald ash borer, chronic wasting disease, neonicotinoid pesticides and aquatic invasive species, HF2310, as amended, was approved by the committee on a split voice vote Wednesday. The bill now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Before the bill was approved, members adopted a delete-all amendment on a 9-7 vote, with Rep. Dave Lislegard (DFL-Aurora) joining Republican committee members in voting no.

That matched the 9-7 vote on one of several other amendments that were adopted. Offered by Rep. Sydney Jordan (DFL-Mpls), it would require nontoxic shot be used for small game in some wildlife management areas. The committee also adopted a Hansen amendment to alter the composition of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources to include 10 legislative and nine citizen members and reduce the vote total needed for a recommendation from 12 to 11.

The amended bill reaches a target of \$1 billion for programs and projects in the Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Board of Water and Soil Resources and other organizations. Hansen couldn't name in aggregate the exact percentage of new spending over base, but marveled at the opportunity offered in the 2024-25 budget.

'Last year we were talking about \$10 million, this year it is \$670 million,' he said. The budget reflects choices appropriate to one-time funding such as planting trees, investing in habitat, retiring debt and leveraging federal dollars."

Thank you,

Janette Dean

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