



LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

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Becca Nash, Director

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Dear Chair Hansen and Committee Members,

HF 206 (Hansen) proposes a general fund appropriation for a project that has previously been considered through the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources' (LCCMR) multi-stage competitive process for funding from the state's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). This letter provides background on the ENRTF, LCCMR, and our history with this project.

[The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \(ENRTF\)](#)

The ENRTF is a permanent fund in the state treasury that was created by voters through a constitutional amendment to support activities that protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. It is funded by 40% of the annual proceeds from the Minnesota State Lottery as well as from investments managed by the State Board of Investment.

[The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources \(LCCMR\) and its process](#)

The LCCMR is a 17-member commission made up of 5 house members, 5 senators, and 7 appointed citizens and is supported by its own non-partisan staff. LCCMR is responsible for both making recommendations to the Legislature on how the state's ENRTF dollars are appropriated and ensuring outcomes of those projects are achieved and funds spent as approved.

LCCMR's recommendations for funding from ENRTF typically result from a multi-stage competitive process following the release of an annual request for proposals that includes priorities for funding from the commission's strategic plan. The commission typically spends about nine months reviewing and scoring proposals, hearing presentations from applicants, and coordinating external scientific peer reviews of research proposals. Top proposals are selected, put into bill form, and must receive approval by at least 12 of the 17 members to become the LCCMR's recommendation that is presented to the Legislature for your consideration.

[H.F. 206 \(Hansen\) Neonicotinoid impacts on game species.](#)

In response to last year's LCCMR RFP, the Department of Natural Resources requested \$1,060,000 ENRTF funding to evaluate impacts of neonicotinoids in game species.

The LCCMR was not able to secure the 12-member minimum support to make an ENRTF funding recommendation to the Legislature last year. As a result, there were two different versions of an ENRTF funding bill that were introduced and heard in the Legislature- one in the House, one in the Senate. This neonicotinoid project was included in both versions, albeit at different funding levels (\$943k in the House, \$700k in the Senate). The Senate removed the neonicotinoid project through an author's amendment in committee. The project was not included in the final conferenced bill (HF 3765) that was eventually passed and signed into law.

As always, please let me know if I can share any additional information. We look forward to speaking before the committee next week to give you a more complete introduction to the LCCMR and ENRTF.

Best,

Becca Nash

Rep. Patty Acomb, Rita Albrecht, Sen. Gary Dahms, Sen. Kari Dziedzic, William Faber, Nancy Gibson,
Rep. Rick Hansen, Sen. Foungh Hawj, Sen. Bill Ingebriksen, Shona Langseth, Rep. Dale Lueck, Seth Moore,
Rep. Kelly Morrison, Jeremy Peichel, Michael Reese, Rep. Tama Theis, Sen. Torrey Westrom