

100%

100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
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www.100percentmn.org

February 17, 2021

Chair Marquart and Members of the Committee,

We're writing to share our support for House File 991.

Minnesotans know we're better off together. That's why we've invested, over and over, to make Minnesota better for each successive generation.

In 1988, the legislature put the question to voters: should Minnesota create and fund a permanent trust fund for Minnesota's environment and natural resources? Over 80% of voters said 'yes'. When, in 1998, voters were asked to renew the fund, 77% said 'yes' again. In 2008, voters were asked if we should go further, by investing in our clean water, land, and legacy. For a third time in two decades, **a strong majority voted to raise public funds for our future.**

But we knew we could do better.

In 2013, a majority of Minnesotans supported creating a fourth-tier income tax for the top 2% of earners in Minnesota. Per two Star Tribune polls, 54% supported the increase in March and 58% supported it in June that year. And in 2021, if Minnesota is in line with recent national polling, **our belief in tax fairness is still strong.** In 2020, a Reuters poll found that of those Americans polled "64% strongly or somewhat agreed that 'the very rich should contribute an extra share of their total wealth each year to support public programs'".

To create the Minnesota we want, we need everyone to pitch in and pay their fair share. Governor Tim Walz's tax proposal invests to make that Minnesota a reality.

The realities we face are challenging and are likely to get harder. As more Minnesotans experience the impacts of climate change firsthand, **we're learning that the increased risks brought by a changing climate come with significant costs.** We've experienced waves of catastrophic property losses since 1998, compounding public health costs, and increasing demands for disaster relief. In addition to federal disaster assistance, Minnesota has spent \$104 million through our Disaster Assistance Contingency Account since 2014. Since that year, sixty-seven of Minnesota's eighty-seven counties and seven Tribal nations have had state disaster declarations that have drawn on this account. These state resources have been essential for helping many Minnesotans in their time of greatest need.

Fortunately, we can prepare together by creating a more climate-adapted Minnesota. We can invest in local climate action planning, economic development in fossil fuel plant host communities, electric vehicle infrastructure, climate science research in our public universities, climate hazard and vulnerability modelling, county-level crisis preparedness, and climate resilient infrastructure, to name just a few.

Our transition to a 100% equitable and clean energy future means investing in the people and places that make Minnesota. To do that in a sustained way, we'll need adequate revenue. To do it fairly, we'll need that revenue to be progressively raised.

Enacting the progressive tax provisions in House File 991, like the new fifth tier income tax on Minnesotans making over \$1 million annually (when married, filing jointly), would better prepare our state for a future where everyone has the capacity to navigate complex and costly climate challenges.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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