

March 5, 2026

Representative Mary Franson, GOP Co-Chair
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Fue Lee, DFL Co-Chair
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-Chairs and Members:

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) respectfully submits this letter in support of Governor Walz's capital investment recommendation providing \$3 million for Betterment of Buildings at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, including funding for the predesign and design of a new metropolitan-area fish hatchery.

NMMA represents recreational boat, marine engine, and accessory manufacturers, along with a broad network of dealers and suppliers operating across Minnesota. Our industry benefits from strong fisheries, accessible waters, and continued participation in recreational boating and fishing, making investments in fisheries infrastructure important for both conservation and the outdoor recreation economy.

The current St. Paul fish hatchery serves the seven-county metro area, Minnesota's largest population center, and plays an important role in the state's fish production and stocking system. As the facility continues to age, modernizing and planning for future infrastructure needs will help ensure the state can maintain reliable production capacity and meet modern operational standards over the long term.

Healthy fish populations are closely tied to recreational boating participation. Minnesota's outdoor recreation economy generates approximately \$6.9 billion annually and supports more than 25,000 jobs and 700 businesses statewide. Recreational fishing contributes to boat sales, marina activity, manufacturing demand, and tourism spending throughout greater Minnesota, and dependable hatchery infrastructure helps sustain these opportunities.

This proposal represents a practical investment in both conservation and economic activity. Strengthening the metro hatchery system will help support quality fishing opportunities, and continued participation in boating and outdoor recreation across the state.

Thank you for your consideration,



Ben Murray
Director, State Government Relations

