



## Minnesota Conservation Officers Association

President – Joseph Stattelman  
Vice President – Caleb Silgjord

Secretary – Shane Osborne  
Treasurer – Joel Heyn

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The Honorable Rep. Rick Hansen  
Chair- Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee  
381 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hansen and members of the committee,

I am writing today to ask for your support for HF2833.

During the 2022 legislative session, supervisors and managers from each of the state law enforcement agencies, worked alongside supportive legislators to seek a new bargaining unit under statute 179A.10 Subd. 2. In doing, so they solidified a group of employees that was previously fractured and spread amongst various bargaining groups. It is understandable that these men and women would seek to have a unified voice when decisions regarding terms and conditions of employment are set for them. As you all know, the right to collectively bargain is paramount for employees to seek fair wages, fair rules, and better working conditions. While the bill itself does not directly impact 'rank and file' Conservation Officers represented by the MCOA, we have full understanding and support for their efforts to seek a solidified union.

Hubert H. Humphrey said, *"America is a living testimonial to what free men and women, organized in free democratic trade unions, can do to make a better life. We ought to be proud of it."* Minnesota has a proud history of supporting labor unions throughout the years and I hope that continues here today with your support of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Executive Board  
Minnesota Conservation Officers Association