

State Government Finance and Elections Committee

April 6, 2022

TO: Chair Nelson and committee members

FROM: elaine hanson

RE: Amend omnibus bill to include language of HF531

Please support the inclusion of the language of HF531, which would allow people to participate in the fundraising efforts of nonprofit organizations by permitting the purchase of raffle tickets by phone with a debit card.

I am advocating for the amendment as a life-long participant in natural resource conservation groups, currently an active member of the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance (MOHA).

This bill is brief but important. Restrictions during the pandemic brought cancellation of all the in-person fundraising events that provide most of the income of the dozens of volunteer groups that have natural resource concerns at their core. These nonprofit groups lost most of their fundraising opportunities for nearly two years. Some focus on educating the public and encouraging participation in outdoor recreation such as hiking and birding, hunting and fishing; some assist with maintenance and improvements of trails and parks; others buy land to donate to the Department of Natural Resources so valuable habitat and animals can be protected for public enjoyment.

What's not to like about facilitating the fundraising efforts of nonprofit environmental groups so they can continue to contribute to resource conservation in partnership with the DNR?

I hope you will vote Yes to include the language of HF531 in the State Government Committee's omnibus bill. Thank you for your consideration.

/s/

Elaine Hanson

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