



CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA

February 14, 2024

To the Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Welcome back! At Conservation Minnesota, we are excited to return to the Capitol to advocate for policies and resources that protect the Minnesota we love.

We write today to express our support for two bills, HF3466 (Rehm) and HF3377 (Hansen).

HF3466 (Rehm):

Minnesota's prairies were once one of the largest ecosystems in North America; today they are one of our most endangered habitats. HF3466 improves critical protection programs for Minnesota's native prairie. Prairies provide habitat for countless wildlife species, store carbon in deep and complex root systems, and help protect clean water by filtering runoff before it enters our lakes, rivers and streams. The changes made by HF3466 will preserve this ecological, biological and cultural history.

HF3377 (Hansen):

Since 1988, when Minnesota voters approved the constitutional amendment establishing the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, state lottery proceeds have provided consistent and stable funding. The only requirement is that these funds be used to protect, conserve, preserve and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources for the benefit of current citizens and future generations. The recommendations of the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) found in HF3377 represent the continuation of this remarkable tradition, spreading nearly \$80 million across 101 projects. From research at the University of Minnesota Raptor Center studying highly pathogenic avian influenza, to enhancing environmental education opportunities at the Hormel Nature Center, this bill possesses all the characteristics that recommendations from the LCCMR are supposed to.

We respectfully ask this committee to support both HF3466 and HF3377 so that Minnesotans can continue to enjoy our great outdoors.

Sincerely,

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