



January 11, 2021

*Submitted electronically to Peter.strohmeier@house.mn*  
Environment and Natural Resources Finance & Policy Committee

**Re: Support for HF 30 (Hansen) Environment and natural resources trust fund appropriation**

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking up the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation so soon in this session. As you know, despite efforts to pass this appropriation last year, it was not passed by the legislature and many important projects were not able to proceed.

These funds, which amount to over \$60 million dollars, are constitutionally dedicated to projects that will protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's "air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources" for the benefit of current Minnesotans and future generations. ENRTF may solely be used for this constitutional purpose and no other.

The recommended projects went through an exhaustive vetting process and were selected by a bipartisan, bicameral commission with citizen input. There could not be a better time to make these investments: Minnesotans are turning to the outdoors in record numbers and the projects will create a minimum of 250 jobs in the near term. Furthermore, these dedicated funds do not affect the state's general fund budget. This money is already in hand and ready to be deployed for critical projects and purposes, including

- Cleaning-Up Pollution
- Restoring Habitat
- Increasing Climate Resiliency and Reducing Greenhouse Gases

We ask the Committee to support this bill so that these projects may move forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Morse".

Steve Morse  
Executive Director

Audubon Minnesota  
Cannon River Watershed Partnership  
Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness  
Friends of MN Scientific and Natural Areas  
Friends of the Mississippi River  
Izaak Walton League – Minnesota Division

League of Women Voters – Minnesota  
Pollinator Friendly Alliance  
Minnesota Ornithologists Union  
Minnesota Trout Unlimited  
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter  
Minnesota Well Owners Association  
Northern Waters Land Trust  
St. Croix Oak Savanna Chapter  
St. Croix River Association  
The Trust for Public Land  
Voyageurs Conservancy  
Vote Climate  
Wilderness in the City