

February 22, 2021

Representative Rick Hansen, Chair
Representative Ami Wazlawik, Vice Chair
Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

Dear Chair Hansen and Vice Chair Wazlawik,

I am writing to voice my support for HF 157, the "get the lead out" legislation under consideration by the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee. If passed into law, this would prohibit the sale, manufacture, and use of lead fishing tackle.

Taking this one step further, I also support the clause in the DFL Action Agenda (<https://www.dfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2020-DFL-Action-Agenda.pdf>) which encourages banning the use of lead ammunition.

Lead is a known toxin, especially dangerous to young children. Children can easily be exposed to lead in fishing tackle or ammunition reloading supplies if these items aren't carefully stored. This happened in my own family when I was a child. My dad kept lead shot in the house for reloading shotgun shells. He thought he had hidden it away carefully enough, but my twin sisters were found playing with the shot one day. An unpleasant encounter with syrup of ipecac proved that they hadn't swallowed any, thank goodness, but the episode certainly could have ended badly.

I have enjoyed my share of hunting and fishing over the years, and my family members continue to do so. I hope to see many generations of Minnesotans hunt and fish safely in the future, without the use of lead.

Please advance HF 157 to ban lead fishing tackle, and consider adding lead ammunition to this effort.

Sincerely,

Susan Christiansen
Plymouth, MN



Date: February 19, 2021

Re: Anglers For Habitat: HF 157 Lead Fishing Tackle testimony and recommendations.

Dear Representative Peter Fischer

Anglers For Habitat and recognizes that a ban of lead fishing tackle is a contentious but solvable issue within environmental, conservation and angling groups. Alternatives to lead shot for waterfowling took several decades to implement but has saved thousands upon thousands of waterfowl and other birds from suffering a miserable death and leaving a toxic substance in the environment for centuries. Minnesota needs to join with other States that are limiting the use of small ingestible lead sinkers and jigs.

Banning certain sizes of lead tackle also means re-educating anglers and hunters to practices that date back for generations. To accomplish a re-education, we will need; tackle manufacturers, retailers, lake associations, conservation organizations, sports enthusiasts, anglers, and governmental agencies to play a roll.

Even in other States that have enacted lead tackle bans, small lead fishing tackle is still sold via the internet and is readily available. Anglers For Habitat would support a ban on some sizes and types of lead tackle provided it, encompasses a gradual transition to other metals such as tungsten, bismuth, zinc and tin, copper, and steel. Alternatives are available and may cost 2-3 times as much as the toxic lead tackle. It maybe that 2024 is too short of a time frame to switch Minnesota's fishing tackle industry completely over to non-lead tackle. We also recommend that the definitions of banned fishing tackle have more specific definition: lead is used in a variety of ways in fishing tackle, some is encapsulated inside fishing lures known as crank baits, in other instances lead is used to provide weight and balance in larger Bass, Pike, Muskie, Trout and Salmon lures.

AFH would supports better efforts to keep discarded, damaged or unwanted lead tackle out of lakes and landfills. We are discussing "AFH Get the Lead Out" buckets that could be placed in retail tackle stores.

Anglers for Habitat is a non-profit alliance of anglers dedicated to the preservation and improvement of aquatic habitat, clean water and fishing in Minnesota.



There may need to be language in the Bill requiring locations that sell lead tackle to make collection buckets available.

The Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance would like to sign on to this letter of support, John Underhill President, <http://www.mnmuskie.org/>

Lance Ness

Lance Ness
President, Anglers For Habitat