



## Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance

February 22, 2022

RE: SF2766 Lottery in lieu

Chair Ruud and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee:

The Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance writes in support of SF2766, which increases funds for hunting and fishing programs, as well as parks and trails, during a time when our outdoor resources are seeing unprecedented interest and demand from Minnesotans.

In the year 2000, the Legislature dedicated 97% of the “Lottery in lieu” of sales tax on Lottery tickets to outdoor projects. The percentage allocation was cut to 72.43% during a time of massive budget deficits. Natural resource funding is often one of the first priorities cut in times of budget crises, even though many Minnesotans get their greatest solace from experiencing the outdoors. With Minnesota now operating under a budget surplus, it would be appropriate for the Legislature to return the percentage allocations to 2000 levels and better reflect the original intent for the dollars *and* for what the Lottery is marketed to the public for—enhancing our land and waters, our parks and trails and even the Minnesota Zoo.

Investments in our natural resources, parks and trails along with outdoor experiences through Minnesota Lottery Funds is good policy, Minnesotans have exhibited increased demand for these places and spaces, and the state’s investment therein will improve Minnesotans’ lives.

Thank you for your work on this important policy,

David Carlson, President  
Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance