

CHRIS LEE

Director, Government Relations - State Affairs

clee@nssf.org | 203-434-4330 | nssf.org

March 29, 2022

Senator Carrie Ruud
Senator Fong Hawj
Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Renewal of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund SF4131 **Position: Support**

Dear Minnesota Senate:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), I express strong support for SF4131 (Ruud/Hawj) which proposes a constitutional amendment for the renewal of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

As the trade association for America's firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, the NSSF seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF has a membership of more than 12,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, and sportsmen's organizations. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding Minnesota sportsmen and women, the U.S. military, and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

The ENRTF provides a long-term, consistent, and stable source of funding for activities that protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's "air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources" for the benefit of current Minnesota residents, those who choose to travel to Minnesota, and future generations. NSSF supports the impact the ENRTF has had to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forest and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.

Research has shown that one of the primary barriers to hunting is not having access to land. We see many positive signs that show there is hope for the future of hunting. New research and programs show that many people are motivated to give hunting a try. They tell us it's an activity to be enjoyed with family and friends, that hunting provides healthful meat for their tables, and it allows them to put their busy lives on hold for a time to recharge and reconnect with the outdoors and nature. The efforts to provide access to additional public lands increases the opportunity for Minnesota's hunter.

Hunting, firearms and the shooting sports are part of the history, tradition and culture of Minnesota. Supporting expanded opportunities for participants to access outdoor shooting opportunities on public lands not only increases opportunities for shooting sports participants to enjoy being in the outdoors, but 11% of every firearm and ammunition purchase is dedicated to wildlife preservation and management.

For these reasons and more, the NSSF strongly supports SF4131 and ensuring future benefits for Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

Respectfully,



Christopher Lee