

March 21, 2022

Minnesota Senate Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee

Re: Funding for Shooting Range Improvement Grants    **Position: Support**

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (“NSSF”), I express strong support for SF4098 (Ruud) which seeks to increase funding for the Shooting Range Improvement Grants program.

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 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Shooting Range Improvement Grant Program has been a crucial funding source to increase shooting range capacity for the general public and especially for high school clay target shooters. Expanding Minnesota’s shooting range capacity through these grants will increase opportunities during a time when the popularity and participation in the shooting sports is rapidly growing across all demographics.

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 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, the NSSF strongly supports additional funding for the Shooting Range Improvement Grant Program.

Respectfully,



Christopher Lee