

January 17, 2023

To Chair Hawj and the Committee on Environment, Climate & Legacy,

We write today to ask for your support for the confirmation of Katrina Kessler as Commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency.

At Conservation Minnesota, we represent members from every county in our state, bringing their voices to St. Paul in support of clean air, clean water and a healthy and thriving environment. Alongside a robust community of environmental advocates, we've worked to promote policies to reduce carbon emissions, prevent unsafe chemicals from impacting human health, and ensure resources are available to clean up historical pollution that could harm our communities.

While we're proud of our advocacy, we know that the job does not end when bills are passed, and policies are announced. Effective environmental policy requires effective implementation. That's why it's important to confirm passionate and qualified leaders like Katrina Kessler to lead the Pollution Control Agency.

Katrina Kessler's years of experience within the Pollution Control Agency and outside the Agency allows her to bring a practical approach to the technical and detailed work of the Agency. Kessler's commitment to ensuring that Minnesotans disproportionately impacted by pollution have cleaner air and water will help ensure that all Minnesotans and Minnesota communities are healthy and thriving.

As the Pollution Control Agency continues to address significant issues impacting our health, and the health of our communities, it's more important than ever to have an expert like Katrina Kessler at the helm. Please support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Paul Austin, Executive Director

Nels Paulsen, Policy Director (608) 469-5299 nels@conservationminnesota.org

David Pelikan, Policy Associate (262) 685-7265 david@conservationminnesota.org