



January 17, 2023

RE: DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen Confirmation Support

Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee,

On behalf of over 50,000 Ducks Unlimited (DU) members in Minnesota, we write to express support for the confirmation of Sarah Strommen as Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner. Commissioner Strommen has proven to be an outstanding agency leader and conservation partner over the last four years. We are confident that under her continued leadership, the Minnesota DNR will continue to improve natural resource management and stewardship throughout the state to the benefit of all Minnesotans.

DU is a leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation with over 50,000 passionate members in Minnesota who care deeply about how the state's wildlife and wetland resources are managed. The responsibility to oversee and implement statewide conservation largely rests with the professional natural resource managers at DNR who then work in partnership with non-governmental organizations, private landowners, and federal natural resource agencies to secure the future of Minnesota's wildlife and the habitat upon which they depend. This tall task requires a strong leader who is willing to listen to partners and stakeholders and work diligently with them to co-create a shared vision for the future of Minnesota natural resource conservation. Commissioner Strommen has displayed a commitment and aptitude for the essential collaborative work of conservation, especially as it pertains to our wetland conservation mission and the shallow lakes enhancement focus of our Living Lakes Initiative in Minnesota.

DU has successfully conserved nearly 240,000 acres of wetlands and associated habitats throughout Minnesota since our founding in 1937 and that, in large part, has been made possible by the longstanding partnership we have with DNR and the lineage of conservation champions who have led the Department over its history. Commissioner Strommen has continued this legacy of conservation leadership and has brought a unique set of skills necessary for addressing the increasingly complex challenges we face. Her openness to a diversity of views and focus on improving department efficiency, resiliency and relevancy help make her an effective commissioner and someone we strongly support.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any further questions about our experiences working in partnership with Commissioner Strommen and the DNR.

Sincerely,

Bill Aldinger
Minnesota State Policy Chair
Ducks Unlimited

Kyle Rorah
Director of Public Policy
Ducks Unlimited

Jon Schneider
Manager of Conservation Programs
Ducks Unlimited