



Minnesota Conservation Federation

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Chair Foug Hawj
MN Senate Environment, Climate, and Energy Committee
1150 State Office Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF356

Minnesota is fortunate to have outdoor recreational opportunities available for its citizens and visitors. Members of the Minnesota Conservation Federation can be found angling, paddling, hunting, foraging, and simply enjoying time outdoors throughout our state's varied seasons.

The access to and quality of the experiences to be had in Minnesota's outdoors is not a coincidence. It is the result of generations of planning and stewardship that includes the development of dedicated sources of funding for conservation.

The lottery in lieu sales tax passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 2000 represents one of the mechanisms developed to fund conservation in Minnesota. This 6.5% in lieu of sales tax collected from the sale of lottery tickets was intended to establish the Heritage Enhancement Account, among others, within the MN DNR Game and Fish fund. If you hunt, fish, access streams for paddling, or desire to see our state's game and fish laws enforced then the funding of the MN DNR Game and Fish fund is important to you.

The time is now to restore the lottery in lieu of funds to conservation, as they were originally intended, so that future generations of outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the same opportunities to access quality outdoor experiences as we do today.

The Minnesota Conservation Federation is in support of SF 356

Regards,

Brad Gausman
Executive Director
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