

MINNESOTA

2355 Highway 36 West Suite 400 Roseville MN 55113 651.739.9332 **mn.audubon.org**

Environment, Climate & Legacy Committee Minnesota Senate Building St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

January 23, 2023

Re: Support of Senate File 442 – Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriations

Dear Members of the Committee:

Audubon Minnesota and affiliated Audubon chapters across the state support Senate File 442: Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriations. While Audubon Minnesota has a project that will receive funding through this bill, this letter is submitted in support of the entire package.

The Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund benefits current citizens and future generations by providing long-term, consistent, and stable funding for projects to protect, conserve, and enhance Minnesota's "air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources," and has provided funding to nearly 1,800 projects across the state of Minnesota since 1991.

We appreciate and acknowledge the extensive vetting done by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota's Natural Resources. The breadth of projects contained in this bill is critical to protecting and enhancing Minnesota's environment and natural resources. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Rob Schultz, Vice President of Audubon Minnesota Iowa Missouri

Alongside the following independent Audubon chapters across Minnesota:

- Peter Mattson, President of <u>Austin Audubon Society</u>
- Catherine McGoldrick, Vice President of <u>Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society</u>
- Daniel Kneip, President of <u>Central Minnesota Audubon Chapter</u>
- Rob Daves, President of Minnesota River Valley Audubon Society
- Peter Buesseler, President of Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society
- Viola Riggle, President of <u>Prairie Lakes Audubon Society</u>
- Greg Burnes, President of <u>St. Paul Audubon Society</u>
- Dann Adair, President of Wild River Audubon Society
- Joel Dunnette, President of Zumbro Valley Audubon Society