



February, 2023

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota expresses our support for legislation that provides common sense measures for managing motorized recreation on our public lands.

Given the millions of increased funding allocated to motorized recreation in the last two years, in addition to the ongoing process the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in to create 3 Statewide Master Plans for motorized trail systems; one each for All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), Off Road Vehicles (trucks and jeeps) and Off Highway Motorcycles, it is important that we have reasonable controls in place to protect and preserve our waters and wildlife habitats. These common sense measures will also support our DNR in carrying out their responsibility to ensure our public lands are healthy, and accessible for multiple uses and users. Quiet use recreationists also enjoy these natural treasures.

Importantly, it will also ensure trails are only designated in host communities that want them by requiring local approval.

This bill will lessen the environmental impact of motorized recreation and will not diminish the experience of the responsible user. It is critical during increasing climate change caused events to preserve the resiliency of our ecosystems. As waters warm and habitat and biodiversity continues to be lost from human impact, we must put in place these common sense measures to mitigate the effects from motorized recreation on our forests and waterways. These measures will help sustain Minnesota's Nature Tourism economy and protect every Minnesotan's right to the outdoors.

Sincerely,

Sam Streukens

Civic Engagement Director

League of Women Voters of Minnesota