

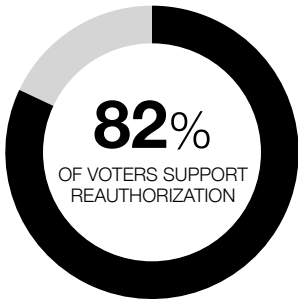
# CONTINUING THE TRADITION

## Reauthorizing the constitutional dedication of lottery proceeds to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (HF1900/SF2404)



For three decades, the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) has helped Minnesotans carry on a tradition of conservation, protecting land, air, water, and wildlife across the state. Thanks to the constitutional dedication of net lottery proceeds, the ENRTF has funded over \$900 million in local projects for the public purpose of protection, preservation, conservation, and enhancement of Minnesota's natural resources.

In 1988, the Minnesota Legislature passed constitutional amendment legislation to create a state lottery and to establish the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, with a *statutory* dedication of 50 percent of lottery proceeds allocated to the ENRTF. That November, 77 percent of voters overwhelmingly approved the ENRTF amendment. After a budget shortfall led the Legislature to reduce the Trust Fund's allocation to 40 percent of lottery proceeds, a new amendment was introduced in 1990 to *constitutionally* protect the ENRTF's lottery dedication for the next decade, which was quickly approved by 75 percent of voters. And in 1998, 74 percent of voters approved a third amendment to reauthorize the constitutional lottery dedication until the end of 2024.



**At the end of 2024, the constitutional dedication of lottery proceeds to the ENRTF will expire, unless reauthorized by a voter-approved amendment.**

Without a constitutional amendment in 2024, Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund will risk losing its only funding source. Fortunately, Minnesotans still overwhelmingly support the ENRTF and the reauthorization of its lottery proceeds. In February 2023, a survey of Minnesota voters found that **82% of voters support** increasing and continuing to dedicate lottery profits to the ENRTF. This survey found sizable majority support among DFL, Republican, and independent respondents.

### WE NEED TO ACT NOW...

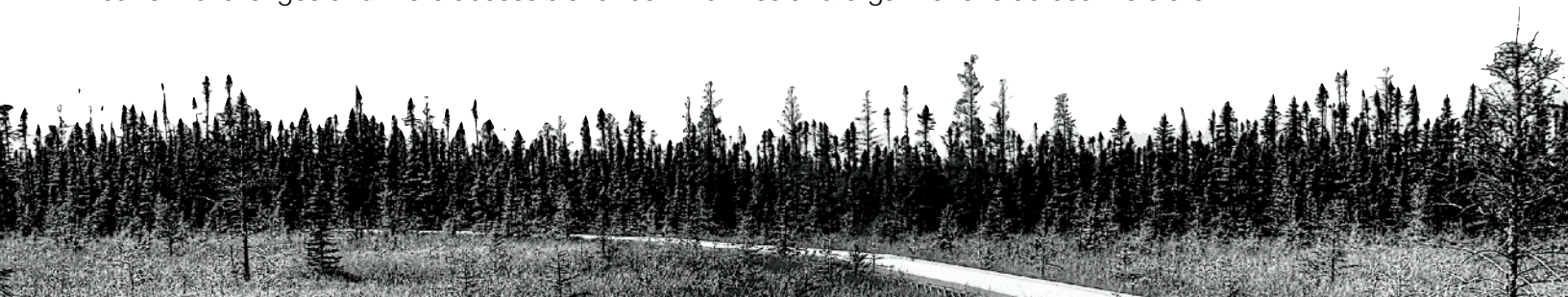
We need to ensure this funding source remains constitutionally dedicated toward environmental projects. Environmental spending in the state has been inconsistent. Net lottery proceeds provide a reliable source of revenue for Minnesota's outdoors in good times and bad times. We must pass legislation to put reauthorization on the ballot.



### AND IMPROVE THE PROCESS

Minnesota's outdoor recreation, heritage, clean waters, and habitats are popular and supported across the political spectrum. Despite this popularity, the ENRTF struggles to meet changing natural resource challenges, particularly in disadvantaged communities across the state. Small improvements now can have a big impact toward ensuring these dollars can be effectively and equitably accessed for years to come. These changes include:

- Restoring the ENRTF's original 50 percent allocation of net lottery proceeds
- Allocating unclaimed prizes from the state lottery to the ENRTF
- Using additional revenues to establish a community grants program, allowing the ENRTF to be more responsive to current challenges and more accessible for communities and organizations across the state.



# REAUTHORIZE THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEDICATION OF LOTTERY PROCEEDS TO MINNESOTA'S ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

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## WORKING COALITION

