



Minnesota Conservation Federation

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Chair Founq Hawj
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
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Two months before voting day in the fall of 1988 Minnesota Conservation Federation members gathered for our annual meeting to pass resolutions relating to our conservation work. Our members saw that funding in support of natural resource conservation had stagnated and that the need for such a source of funding, like the ENRTF, was critical for the long term health of the state's natural resources. A resolution passed resolving that "The Minnesota Conservation Federation urges the Minnesota Legislature to support the constitutional dedication of revenues for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund."

Today our organization continues to support the ENTRF and the critical natural resources work it funds.

Success stories of projects funded by monies from the ENRTF are many and have specifically benefited the sporting public in Minnesota. ENRTF projects have increased lands available for hunting and funds spent to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species have benefited those who fish, swim, and recreate in our state's waters. Recently the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease in whitetail deer has been a topic of concern for many of our state's deer hunters and whitetail enthusiasts. Through funding originating from the ENTRF and the LCCMR's emerging issues account, Minnesota leads the nation in the development of new CWD surveillance technologies. The RT-QuIC test, which was developed at the Minnesota Prion Research and Outreach center at the University of Minnesota allows for more advanced testing of living cervids to analyze the threat posed by this spreading and always fatal disease.

Since the original passage of the trust the problems facing our environment have only grown more complex. At this time we have the opportunity to continue the important work that was first supported by our state's residents over 30 years ago. A renewal of the ENTRF with some modern updates will help to ensure that the woods, waters, and wildlife enjoyed by those who fish, hunt, camp, bike, hike, or paddle will be available for the next generations of outdoor enthusiasts and residents who come after us.

Regards,

Brad Gausman
Executive Director MN Conservation Federation