



March 6, 2024

Chair Jim Carlson
3221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Hello Chair Carlson and members of the Senate Elections Committee,

MNIPL, works through faith organizations to improve our individual and coordinated stewardship of our comprehensive environment through practical, legislative and cultural means, uplifting the voices of those in our environmentally vulnerable communities within green zones and tribal territories. In 2023 laws were pushed which formalized the use of voter information posters and interpreters at the polls, restoring the vote to formerly incarcerated persons, and pre-registering high school students. We need to ensure an additional nuanced law is implemented to protect voters from discriminatory practices and policies. MNIPL supports the Minnesota Voting Rights Act, SF3994 because it explicitly protects our state from discriminating against voters on the basis of race or language minority status, and provides for citizen redress.

At MNIPL we work to create solidarity via a celebration of the differences in our material circumstances and backgrounds under the umbrella of a commitment to improving our community out of a responsibility that underlies and is universal. A healthy democracy is like a healthy ecosystem and requires diversity and participation to flourish- improving access and awareness is a great step towards a healthier democratic system.

MNIPL strongly supports SF3994 and urges members of the Senate Elections Committee to vote in favor of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,
Joshua Lewis Environmental Movement Organizer
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