



February 29, 2024

The Honorable Founj Hawj, Chair  
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy  
95 University Avenue W  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Justin Eichorn, Ranking Minority Member  
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy  
95 University Ave W  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Hospitality Minnesota Support for SF 3957 – Keep It Clean Legislation**

Dear Chair Hawj, Ranking Minority Member Eichorn and Members of the Committee:

Hospitality Minnesota represents hospitality businesses across the state of Minnesota, including restaurants and food service, hotels and lodging, resorts and campgrounds, and more. We advocate for policies that promote and support Minnesota's hospitality and tourism industries.

**Hospitality Minnesota strongly supports SF 3957**, a bill that provides funding for a state funded program centered on keeping the ice on our lakes clean throughout the ice fishing season.

Ice fishing in Minnesota has always been a popular winter activity, consistently drawing tourism to our state. Due to changes in recreational products, we have seen an increase in ice camping with larger ice wheel houses that are brought onto lakes. While most anglers do their part to pick up after themselves, unfortunately there are still people who do not take this seriously and leave behind garbage and human waste that makes its way into the water.

The Keep It Clean legislation is focused on building a regulatory framework that works to prevent ice pollution by the user. This legislation would prevent the placement of garbage or human waste on or under the ice of state waters, with a \$100 fine for offenders. Preserving our state's abundant natural water resources is essential, especially as we see dynamic shifts to our water quality resulting from climate impacts. The tourism that our lakes generate across Minnesota in summer and winter is key to our state's long-term success, and we need to do everything we can to promote and support our lakes' health.

**We respectfully request your support for SF 3957 to ensure that Minnesota's lakes are clean and healthy for generations to come.** We believe this effort is important to the success of our local tourism economies across the state and ensuring that lakes continue to be a vital part of our state's tourism economy.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Director of Government Relations, Jill Sims at [jill@hospitalitymn.com](mailto:jill@hospitalitymn.com) or 612-961-2220.

Sincerely,

**Angie Whitcomb**  
President & CEO  
Hospitality Minnesota

**Jill Sims**  
Director of Government Relations  
Hospitality Minnesota