

Greetings Friends,

"Every winter, hundreds of thousands of anglers head for the frozen water to fish. Most ice anglers clean up after themselves, but some don't — and it's their behavior that was the impetus for a new litter-on-ice law the Minnesota Legislature passed earlier this year." - [2023: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#)

The **KEEP IT CLEAN** Coalition is the driving force behind our "[Clean Ice](#)" legislation, prohibiting the placement of garbage and human waste on or under the ice of state waters, with a \$100 fine for offenders, as the critical first part of protecting Minnesota's ice-covered waters from the leftovers of human activity. We are thrilled to announce that Representative Andrew Myers has chief authored our **KEEP IT CLEAN PROGRAM, GRANTS Bill** in the House and Senator Aric Putnam has chief authored it in the Senate this session! We are grateful to be working with Rep Andrew Myers, Senator Putnam, and many others to promote [HF 3662](#) and [SF3957](#), which will provide funding for a state-wide, agency-run, **KEEP IT CLEAN PROGRAM**, and assistance to communities interested in Clean Ice Projects in their backyards.

We need your support and endorsement now, more than ever. Through the hard work of volunteers and amazing partnerships, our coalition has attracted members representing hundreds of lakes around the state, eager to take on the **KEEP IT CLEAN** challenge ([keepitcleanmn.org](#)). We have developed education campaigns, participated in media events, shared free resources, and, through grant funding and donations, provided signage and waste-removal support at lake accesses. We have shown that our efforts are necessary, but our resources are limited.

Minnesotans tell us they need infrastructure to handle the waste products of a growing "ice camping" and winter angling phenomenon. Although people and their pets can now camp for extended amounts of time on frozen waters, there is no clear direction for the use of the ice, and very few options for safe and legal waste removal onshore. We believe a Shelter and Ice Safety Program, like the existing DNR Boat and Water Safety Program, is the best way to teach the public the importance of caring for the environment and being safe during winter angling and recreation. We also recognize that small communities need incentives and opportunities to build, and upgrade winterized human waste removal infrastructure, so visitors, by the tens of thousands, are not overwhelming local services.

As our bill makes its way to the floor, members anticipate testifying at hearings in the House Environment and Natural Resources, Finances, and Policy Committee and the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committees. Robyn Dwight, from the Upper Red Lake Area Association, and Mike Hirst, from Lake of the Woods **KEEP IT CLEAN**, will take your signed letters (Word Document please) to the Capitol and present them with our testimony in the weeks ahead. Can we count on your letter of support endorsing **KEEP IT CLEAN** and this bill? Please email: [Robyn Dwight](#)

~ Clean ice means clean water. We pledge to help protect and preserve this valuable resource now, and for generations to come. ~ Thank you for your partnership and your ongoing support.

Yours Truly,

The Keep it Clean Coalition
[Keepitcleanmn.org](#)