



February 29, 2024

Via E-Mail Delivery

Senator Fong Hawj, Chair
3231 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Justin Eichorn, Republican Lead
2235 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hawj and Lead Eichorn:

MN-FISH is a statewide organization formed in 2018 to represent the fishing interests of anglers, clubs, local organizations, and industry stakeholders. MN-FISH provides anglers and outdoor recreation supporters the opportunity to have a voice and be heard at the State Capitol.

The boating and outdoor recreation industries are a vital part of Minnesota, supporting over 90,000 jobs and \$9.9 billion in economic benefit to the state (Outdoor Industry Association, 2022).

MN-FISH supports the Keep It Clean Coalition and the campaign to address the growing problem of garbage and waste left behind on the ice by individuals during the ice fishing season. Back in 2023, MN-FISH supported the legislation to establish policy keeping our lakes clean during the ice fishing season and we support this year's legislation as well.

The legislation, HF3662/SF3957, is authored by Rep. Andrew Myers and Sen. Aric Putnam, and will establish a statewide program with grants to local units of government and nongovernmental organizations to implement local programs to prevent water pollution. We believe this legislation will protect Minnesota's waterways and aquatic habitat and benefit those who recreate on Minnesota's waters.

Please support SF3957 for approval and enactment into law this year.

Sincerely,

Dave Osborne
MN-FISH Board of Directors