



Protecting
Minnesota's lake
and river heritage
since 1994

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates - PO Box 22262, St. Paul, MN 55122 - www.mnlakesandrivers.org

Feb. 28, 2024

Greetings,

We are writing in support of HF 3662/ SF 3957 - the Keep It Clean grants program.

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates represents over 500 lake associations and 300,000 lake home and cabin owning families in MN. Pollution of the lakes over the winter by ice camping and angling recreation is a growing concern of our members.

Recent technology in wheeled ice house design has opened a new recreational opportunity, long term ice fishing/ice camping, in Minnesota. The popularity of this new recreational opportunity is exciting and welcome. But each winter, at the end of ice fishing season, many of our lake association groups must organize cleaning parties to travel the ice and clean up garbage and human waste, often many tons of it.

For years they have performed and funded this work as volunteers, working for the public good to protect the public waters. Last year's Keep It Clean legislation provided much needed regulatory framework to prevent ice pollution by the user.

Now it is time to take next steps.

The Keep It Clean grants program introduced this year supports this new popular recreational activity while protecting the resource. Minnesotans need infrastructure to handle the waste products of the increasingly popular "ice camping" 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. 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 and our lakes.

Thank you for your service to the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff L. Jensen", written in a cursive style.

Executive Director of MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates