

**MINNESOTA FOREST ZONE
TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION
SPORTSMEN *preserving THE trapping HERITAGE***

Representative Dave Lislegard
Chair, House Property Tax Division
451 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Grant Hauschild
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3111
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 15, 2024

Dear Chair Lislegard and Senator Hauschild:

On behalf of the Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association in Hibbing, I am writing today in support of House File 5198, Rep. Lislegard's Property Tax Division Report, and Senate File 5435 (Hauschild).

We appreciate you for including funding for our Sportsperson Training & Development Center located in Hibbing.

The Sportsperson Training & Development Center goal is educate adults and youth about protecting, conserving, preserving, and enhancing Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources, and doing so all in one location. The center will educate and train people from around the State of Minnesota, increasing their knowledge of the outdoors and teaching them skills that will help them cultivate a sustainable lifestyle and maintain a healthy and biodiverse natural environment through hunting, fishing, trapping, and other traditional and non-traditional outdoor activities including orienteering, snowshoeing, traversing, and woods skiing.

The center would include 90 RV and 24 primitive camp sites, bog walk trails, hunting & trapping training facility, educational areas, parking space, equipment/maintenance building, restroom/shower facilities and seating bleachers. Educational activities will include trapping and hunting, environmental/wetlands training, drafting training manuals and providing workshops designed to get more people involved in outdoor activities, especially youth and the activities mentioned above.

This funding is very important to our organization as we look to develop this facility and we appreciate your commitment to helping move the project along.

We appreciate this money being reinvested into our local communities on the Iron Range.

Respectfully,
Ray Sogard
President - MFZTA

PO. BOX 367 HIBBING, MN 55746