

Co-Chair Justin Eichorn and Co-Chair Fong Hawj  
Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee  
95 University Avenue W.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 22, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Eichorn and Hawj, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SF 0106. We are concerned about how this bill would decrease the efficiency of conservation work done through the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Because of Minnesotan's overwhelming vote in favor of the Clean Water, Land, & Legacy Amendment that created the Outdoor Heritage Fund, Minnesota is seen as a leader in public funding for the environment. The structure and process developed and followed by the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council already addresses need for public input, notification, and similar concerns indicated in SF 0106. Additional public notification, comment, and meeting requirements would be unduly burdensome, and an inefficient use of taxpayer dollars as it would increase project cost and bureaucracy without clear benefit to Minnesotans.

In conclusion, Audubon cannot support SF 0106, as it utilizes taxpayer dollars and creates government bureaucracy without benefit to Minnesotans.

Sincerely,  
Lindsay J. Brice  
Policy Director  
Audubon Upper Mississippi River  
National Audubon Society

Rob Schultz  
Vice President  
Audubon Upper Mississippi River  
National Audubon Society