



Minnesota  
Environmental  
Partnership

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April 2, 2025

Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee  
Chair Fong Hawj

Dear Chair Hawj and members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership and the organizations listed below, I would like to express our coalition's support for SF 2547, the bill to appropriate dollars from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) to the new Community Grants program as provided in statute.

In November, an overwhelming majority of Minnesotans, including a majority of every county, voted to renew the ENRTF's constitutional share of lottery dollars. Thanks to the legislation that authorized this ballot measure, we also created the Community Grants program and enabled the ENRTF spending increase to fund it.

The Community Grants program is designed to empower small organizations and disadvantaged communities that have historically lacked the means to access the ENRTF funding process under the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). It will extend the reach of the lottery proceeds to benefit grassroots projects and local organizations across the state, supporting protection of our natural resources, pollution prevention, and environmental education. This program will be run by the DNR but overseen by an advisory council of Minnesotans representing our state's diversity and deep environmental expertise.

Public participation by all in protecting and enhancing our environment is a fundamental value here in Minnesota, and the Community Grants program is in keeping with that value. It will provide small organizations across the state the chance to make a direct, visible impact on the environmental well-being of their communities.

We encourage you to vote in favor of SF 2547 to appropriate all funds directed under current law for the Community Grants program. We ask that you respect the will of the voters and give Minnesotans the opportunity to lead on making their communities cleaner and healthier.

Sincerely,

Steve Morse  
Executive Director

*Submitted on behalf of the organizations listed on the following page.*

Alliance for Sustainability  
Audubon Upper Mississippi River  
Austin Audubon Society\*  
Austin Coalition for Environmental Sustainability  
Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota  
Central Minnesota Audubon Society, Inc\*  
Clean River Partners  
Climate Generation  
Climate Land Leaders  
CURE MN  
Environmental Initiative  
Eureka Recycling  
Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas  
Friends of the Boundary Waters  
Izaak Walton League Minnesota Division  
League of Women Voters Duluth  
League of Women Voters Minnesota  
Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota  
Metro Blooms\*  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
Minnesota Well Owners Organization  
Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society\*  
MN350  
Move Minnesota  
Pollinator Friendly Alliance  
Renewing the Countryside  
Resilient Cities and Communities  
Saint Paul Bird Alliance  
Sustainable Farming Association  
Third Act Minnesota  
WaterLegacy  
Zumbro Valley Audubon Society\*

*\*denotes non-MEP member*