



April 8, 2025

RE: SF 2077 (Hawj) Environment Finance and Policy Omnibus Bill

Chair Hawj and Members of the Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for the omnibus budget bill this year.

We are pleased to see the appropriations in Articles 1, 2, and 3. Funding our state agencies to do their work is fundamental to preserving our clean air, clean water, and outdoor spaces. Furthermore, Articles 2 and 3 support the intent of Minnesota voters to continue important funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF).

Article 3 marks a significant first step in new dedicated funding to the Community Grants Program from the ENRTF. We know voters and legislators wanted to see more people benefit from the lottery funded ENRTF. We are excited to help this new program succeed, and we thank the committee for their support.

Article 4 contains many innovative new policies to help a broad array of Minnesotans enjoy our clean air, clean water and outdoor spaces. We always support policies that will help get more people outdoors, and there are several provisions in this article that will do just that. Furthermore, we support changes to state law that will improve our shared enjoyment getting outdoors and help agencies pay for the services they are delivering.

Article 6 represents a significant step forward in helping counties address electronic waste and unwanted batteries that pose a significant dilemma to all Minnesota communities. We know that discarded e-waste and batteries are becoming an increasing threat in our solid waste disposal system. Article 6 marks a significant step in ensuring producers of e-waste and batteries help manage the safe end of life of their products.

Finally, Article 7 represents a collaborative approach to streamlining Minnesota's permitting system without compromising on protecting our shared natural resources. Article 7 was not a priority for Conservation Minnesota entering the 2025 legislative session, but we appreciate the discussions throughout the legislative process. Those discussions helped us ensure our clean air, clean water and outdoor spaces are not harmed in the name of permitting reform. We encourage the committee and all senators to see Article 7 not as a vehicle for additional regulatory reform, but as meaningful changes that can sustain the rigors of the legislative process.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts with you today.



**CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA**

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