



**WILDERNESS
INQUIRY**

April 19, 2025

Sen. John Marty, Chair
Finance Committee
Minnesota State Senate

Sen. FOUNG Hawj, Chair
Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Minnesota State Senate

Re: Support for Wilderness Inquiry in Senate Legacy Omnibus Bill (SF2865)

Chair Marty, Chair Hawj, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for including funding in support of Wilderness Inquiry's Canoemobile and Pyramid of Outdoor Engagement programming in the Senate Legacy Omnibus Bill for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

The Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee has recommended a strong position to support this work. **With the Senate position of \$485,000 in each year of the biennium included in SF2865, Wilderness Inquiry will further our impact and connect more than 8,500 youth and families – from every region of Minnesota – to hands-on activities in the outdoors that teach about the history and cultural heritage of our state.** This important program represents the very intent of the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund: to preserve Minnesota's deep history and rich cultural heritage with programming designed to ensure everyone can participate, regardless of their abilities or background.

We hope to partner with you to advance this funding in the Arts & Cultural Heritage Article of the in the Senate Legacy Omnibus Bill so that we can serve many more youth in 40+ communities across the state in the next biennium. **Thank you for your leadership and partnership.**

With gratitude,

Erika Rivers, Executive Director

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