



January 28, 2025

Minnesota State Senate

Subject: Senate File 345

Senator Ann H. Rest – Chair, Senate Tax Committee
Senator Bill Weber – Chair, Senate Tax Committee
Senator Steve Drazkowski – Vice Chair, Senate Tax Committee
Senator Matt D. Klein – Vice Chair, Senate Tax Committee

Dear Senate Tax Committee Members,

Established in 1961, the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) is North America's foremost conservation organization dedicated to creating healthy forests, abundant wildlife and promoting a conservation ethic. Together with the American Woodcock Society (AWS) (established in 2014), RGS & AWS work with private landowners, forest products industrial partners, and government agencies to establish critical wildlife habitat utilizing scientific management practices. Our members and staff recognize the numerous economic, recreational, social, and aesthetic values that are generated from Minnesota's public lands and wildlife resources. That is why RGS & AWS members **support Senate File 345.**

RGS & AWS and other nonprofit bird preservation/conservation organizations frequently work with federal, state, and local government agencies through state grant programs, stewardship agreements, and collaborations to improve, enhance, and maintain critical wildlife habitat in the state. Providing sales tax exemption for exempt items purchased and used in Minnesota to develop, preserve, restore, or maintain waterfowl and upland bird habitat better allows RGS & AWS, our public agency partners, NGO affiliates, and grassroots membership to invest in the stewardship of Minnesota's natural resources for the benefit of all Minnesotans.

RGS & AWS urges members of the 94th Legislature Tax Committee to support Senate File 345.

Best Regards,

Jon Steigerwaldt
Forest Conservation Director: Great Lakes/Upper Midwest
Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society