

# FACT SHEET | Jobs Bill: Investing in Our Environment

*Building a Better Minnesota*

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Investing in clean water initiatives is essential to the health and wellness of Minnesotans, and to the protection of our state's treasured waterways. That is why Governor Dayton signed into law new investments in clean drinking water and wastewater treatment projects. These new projects will help communities across our state, protect the health of all Minnesotans, and preserve our environment for the future.

## Critical Investments in Minnesota's Environment

- **Accessing Clean, Safe Drinking Water.** The jobs bill signed by Governor Dayton will allocate funding for the next phase of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System in southwestern Minnesota. Extending the system will help ensure Minnesotans in communities such as Luverne and Worthington get the clean water they need and help spur economic development and new businesses.
- **Protection Against Flooding.** Every spring, rising waters threaten to wreak havoc on communities across Minnesota. To help protect our human life and property, the jobs bill signed by Governor Dayton includes new resources for flood mitigation.
- **Repairing and Reconstructing Dams.** Minnesota has more than 800 dams that are publicly owned. Most of these are over 50 years old. Like any infrastructure, they need upkeep. A high hazard dam's failure would cause rapid and unexpected flooding downstream, which could result in loss of life or significant property damage. Other dams create desirable water levels on lakes and a dam failure would result in significant impacts on property values. The jobs bill signed by Governor Dayton will invest needed funding in the repair, reconstruction and removal of dams, and for dam emergency response.
- **Developing Parks and Trails.** The jobs bill signed by Governor Dayton will help fund the Veterans State Trail at Camp Ripley and help complete the Heartland State Trail. These and other investments will provide outdoor recreation opportunities for Minnesotans, attract additional tourism, and help thousands of people enjoy and appreciate our state's treasured natural resources.
- **Investing in Clean Water.** Preserving and protecting our clean water is imperative in the Land of 10,000 Lakes – and Governor Dayton's bonding proposal makes investments in crucial projects that will do exactly that. Among other key investments in clean water, the jobs bill signed by Governor Dayton will help Koochiching County build sanitary sewage treatment facilities to clean the waters in and around Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness areas, protecting these waterways for the enjoyment future generations of Minnesotans.