

July 3, 2025

Senator Fount Hawj, Chair

Senator Steve Green, Ranking Minority Member

Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee

Representative Peter Fischer, Co-Chair

Representative Josh Heintzeman, Co-Chair

Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

Transmitted via email

Dear Senators and Representatives:

This letter is in reference to a legislative report requirement in Minnesota Statutes 116X.03, Subd. 5 related to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Community Grant Program.

Subd. 5.Reporting.

By February 1 each year, the commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources on the administration of this section during the previous fiscal year, including administrative expenses and the grants awarded.

We apologize for missing this reporting deadline and are committed to meeting this reporting requirement annually as this new grant program develops. As of February 1, 2025, the legislature had not appropriated funding for the Community Grant Program. Consequently, the DNR did not award grants, administer grants, or incur associated administrative expenses.

During the 2025 legislative session, the legislature provided additional statutory guidance within Minnesota Laws of 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1 regarding Minnesota Statute 116X, including a new reporting requirement. Under the revised Minnesota Statute 116X, the DNR commissioner will submit a report by December 15, 2025, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees addressed here. That report will include:

- recommendations to ensure that the program operates in a manner similar to the Conservation Legacy Grant Program;%
- drafts of any requests for proposals and criteria that will be used to prioritize applications and allocate funding;%

- details of the grant program implementation, including requests for proposals, awarded grants, and future implementation; and, %
- organizational structure and membership of the ENRTF Community Grant Advisory Council under Minn. Stat. 116X.05

We look forward to providing the December 15, 2025 report and February 1, 2026 annual report for your review.

If you have questions regarding this material or need additional information, please contact me at Mary.Robison@state.mn.us, 651-259-5561.

Sincerely,

Mary Robison

Chief Financial Officer, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

CC:

Legislative Reference Library

Kara Josephson, Committee Administrator, Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee

Peter Strohmeier, DFL Committee Administrator, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

Amy Zipko, GOP Committee Administrator, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

Anna Johnson, Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

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