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DEFENDING MINNESOTA'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FOUNDATION

Minnesotans love to enjoy and are committed to protecting our lakes, rivers, streams, forests, and natural areas – our Great Outdoors. Our natural resources don't just take care of themselves, as Minnesotans know.

Strong, common sense environmental laws are essential safeguards of our outdoors, and help ensure the purity of our drinking water and sustainability of our groundwater. That's why more than 85% of Minnesota voters want Minnesota's environmental laws to be stronger or better enforced.*

Over the years, Minnesota Environmental Partnership and our member organizations have fought for laws that promote clean energy and strengthen protection of our land, water and air. As was the case in 2015, we have also vigorously opposed short-sighted efforts to block, undermine, and undo those laws. Such efforts are out of step with the wishes of the voters of our state. As we work to advance our priority issues this year, we will continue our work of defending existing laws from being weakened or repealed. These include:

Clean Energy – Progressive energy policies that increase our use of renewable energy sources, provide incentives to utilities to promote energy efficiency, and achieve our goal of reducing Minnesota's carbon pollution 80% by 2050. This includes maintaining the moratorium on the construction of new nuclear reactors.

Minnesota Environmental Policy Act – Minnesota's environmental review law, which protects our communities and our Great Outdoors from avoidable harm that poorly thought-through projects and decisions can inflict.

Plentiful and Clean Water – Minnesota's clean water laws and standards, by which we eliminate pollution; restore and protect our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater; and avoid the waste and over-use that imperils our quality of life and economic prospects.

Community and Township Rights – The core democratic principle of community and township rights allows local communities to enact planning and zoning ordinances stronger than state regulations. This ensures proposed projects benefit the local area and do not come at the expense of neighbors and their local environment.

*Polling data from a statewide telephone poll of 600 registered Minnesota voters, conducted February 4-6, 2014, for the Minnesota Environmental Partnership by the bipartisan research team of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates and Public Opinion Strategies. The margin of sampling error for the full statewide samples is 4.0 percentage points, plus or minus.