



POLICY PRIORITIES

Minnesota is the home of clean water - and we aim to keep it that way! Our Water Action Day coalition supports clean, safe and affordable water for all Minnesotans. Here are our 2019 policy priorities:

ENSURE HEALTHY LAND FOR HEALTHY WATER

What happens on land impacts our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and drinking water. We support programs that improve land stewardship and protect important landscapes for water. Legislation to achieve this includes:

- **Invest in clean-water crops:** Fully fund the Forever Green Initiative at the University of Minnesota to develop and market profitable perennial crops and winter annuals that build soil health & clean our water (multiple bills).
- **Reduce salt pollution:** Help reduce chloride (salt) pollution on our roads and sidewalks by improving education and training, and addressing needed liability reform (HF2740/SF2757).
- **Preserve our lands for water:** Bond for land conservation programs that sustain water quality, like Forests for the Future (HF1081/SF1194) and Reinvest in Minnesota Working Grasslands (HF1079/SF1692), and fund other Reinvest in Minnesota programs like the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
- **Support clean-water crop markets:** Incentivize market-based perennial and winter annual crops in at-risk wellhead protection areas through the Working Lands Drinking Water Protection Pilot Program (HF1569/SF1637).
- **Fund Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs):** Grant SWCDs authority to levy funds in their communities (HF1284/SF1443) and provide additional support from the general fund (HF1624/SF1712) - not the Clean Water Fund.

INVEST IN OUR CLEAN WATER FUTURE

Investing in clean water today will improve water quality and save our state and future generations money over time. Legislation making important investment in our waters includes:

- **Invest in water infrastructure:** Fund important local wastewater and drinking water infrastructure upgrades with state bonds (HF411/SF587).
- **Protect our climate:** Reduce the impacts of climate change on water by going carbon free by 2050 (HF2208/SF2431), and investing in the transition to electric vehicles (HF2208/SF1904).
- **Protect our drinking water:** Increase the Safe Drinking Water Fee to fund important public health protection programs. The existing fee hasn't been raised in over 28 years (HF1846/SF1397).
- **Support lead-free homes:** Create and fund \$1m /year to the Lead Safe Homes Grant Program (HF1007/SF1798).



- **Protect our pollinators:** Improve pollinator health through neonic-free Wildlife Management Areas protections (HF1656), local pesticide regulation (HF1733), and reducing pesticide impacts on pollinator health (HF2200).

RESTORE PUBLIC TRUST: POLICY BASED ON SCIENCE AND TRANSPARENCY

We want to see the legislature make environmental decisions based in science and research, not politics. Legislative and agency decisions should be transparent and open to participation. Legislation to achieve these goals includes:

- **Clean water promise:** Set a statewide goal of achieving 100% clean & safe surface water by 2040 (HF653).
- **Reinstate the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizens' Board:** Return to citizen oversight of this vital public agency (HF2209/SF627).
- **Protect wild rice:** Oppose the elimination of water quality standards that are important for our wild rice waters (HF2513/SF2316).
- **Hold feedlots accountable:** Oppose reclassification of feedlots as pastureland, which would allow feedlots to skirt environmental regulations as though they were grasslands pastures (SF2344).
- **Let legal processes play out:** Oppose restriction of state funds to pursue the Line 3 appeal (HF1710/SF1757).
- **Prove it first:** Require sulfide mine permits to be contingent on proof that these mines won't pollute our waters (HF2212/SF1087).
- **Prevent agency conflicts of interest:** Move mineral promotion responsibilities out of the Dept. of Natural Resources to eliminate a conflict with their role as mining regulator (HF1202/SF783).

WATER ACTION DAY 2019 SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Water Action Day 2019 Sponsors: Anglers for Habitat, Audubon Minnesota, Clean Water Action, Clean Up Our River Environment (CURE), Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, Conservation Minnesota, Duluth for Clean Water, Environment Minnesota, Environmental Working Group, Fish & Legislative Wildlife Alliance, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, Friends of the Cloquet Valley State Forest, Friends of the Mississippi River, Friends of Pool 2, The Humane Society of the United States, Izaak Walton League, Land Stewardship Project, League of Women Voters - Upper Mississippi River Region, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Minnesota Conservation Federation, Minnesota Environmental Partnership, Minnesota River Congress, Mississippi River Network, Our Revolution - Minnesota, Pesticide Action Network, Pollinator Friendly Alliance, Save Our Sky Blue Waters, Save Lake Superior Association, Save the Boundary Waters, Sierra Club Northstar Chapter, WaterLegacy.

Water Action Day 2019 Supporters: American Sustainable Business Council, Alliance for Sustainability, Cannon River Watershed Partnership, Environmental Coalition at St. Olaf, Environmental Justice Coordinating Council, Environmental Student Association at the U of M, Honor the Earth, Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, Minneapolis Area Synod, MN350, The Nature Conservancy, Public Policy Project, Take Action MN, Transition Longfellow, Trout Unlimited, The Water Bar, Wilderness In The City, Women's March MN.