



March 29, 2022

To: Representative Melissa Hortman, Speaker of the House  
Representative Ryan Winkler, Majority Leader  
Representative Liz Olson, Deputy Majority Leader and Speaker Pro Tempore  
Representative Rena Moran, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee  
cc: Representative Patty Acomb, Chair of the Minnesota House Climate Action Caucus

Dear Representatives,

On behalf of the members of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, Minnesota's largest coalition of environmental and conservation groups, I and the undersigned organizations urge you to live up to the \$1 billion commitment made in the [2022 Minnesota Climate Action Plan](#) developed by the Minnesota House Climate Action Caucus. These comprehensive investments would result in immediate and long-term reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and would improve Minnesotans' health and quality of life by reducing air and water pollution and lowering energy costs.

These critical investments in transportation, regenerative agriculture and land use, and energy-efficiency and clean energy will help Minnesota tackle the sectors most responsible for contributing to climate pollution. All these sectors must make significant immediate and longer-term reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to meet the 45% target the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has said must be achieved worldwide by 2030 to stave off the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

As you make decisions about appropriations and use of the budget surplus, we urge you to prioritize funding for:

- Transportation - the largest source of Minnesota's carbon emissions - to expand and electrify transit, improve biking and walking infrastructure and make it easier to charge electric vehicles throughout the state. This includes more electric buses and more bus rapid transit routes that will connect people in the Twin Cities and the suburbs who rely on public transportation to get to work and run errands.
- Sustainable agriculture and land use – to invest heavily in regenerative agricultural practices and crops that dramatically improve soil health, water quality, habitat and climate resilience, all while benefiting farmers and enhancing rural economic vitality.
- Energy efficiency and clean energy – to increase investments for weatherization assistance, making buildings like schools, homes, apartments and commercial spaces more livable and less prone to high heating, cooling, and electricity costs. This will help ensure people are well-prepared for unforgiving Minnesota winters and increasingly hot summers. Energy efficiency must also be coupled with investments in clean energy on public infrastructure, renewables throughout Greater Minnesota, and innovation in new clean electricity technologies.
- Adaptation and resilience - to create an infrastructure adaptation and resilience fund. This will help local governments strengthen the ability of Minnesotans to adapt and prepare for the impacts of climate change, protecting those who are most vulnerable to severe weather and health issues.

Thank you for your commitment and leadership. We stand ready to work with you as you make these critical investments that will help build a healthy climate and sustainable future for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,



Steve Morse  
Executive Director

*Submitted on behalf of the following organizations:*

Clean River Partners

Clean Water Action Minnesota

CURE (Clean Up the River Environment)

Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness

Friends of the Mississippi River

Hastings Environmental Protectors

Izaak Walton League Minnesota Division

Lakeville Friends of the Environment

Land Stewardship Project

League of Women Voters Minnesota

League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

Minnesota Ornithologists Union

Minnesota Trout Unlimited

MN350

Pollinator Friendly Alliance

Renewing the Countryside

Vote Climate

Wild Rivers Conservancy