

Minnesota Environmental Partnership Resolution

Condemning All Attempts to Erode Democracy and the Rule of Law

Whereas, the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776) describes a list of grievances against King George¹;

Whereas, nearly 250 years later, we are witnessing a sustained assault on these constitutional guardrails which parallels Jefferson’s grievances in the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas, A prominent Minnesota Law professor² finds the parallels between Jefferson’s grievances in the Declaration of Independence and our present circumstances are striking;

Whereas, Minnesota Judge, Edward J. Cleary, has described the many steps already taken in our nation to erode democracy and the rule of law; (*Minnesota Star Tribune*, March 28, 2025)³;

Whereas, Juventino Meza, former Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) attorney, now with Immigrant Law Center, recently stated:

*“... the forces that are attacking the rule of law and immigrants are also actively attacking environmental protections. These attacks on the law weaken the very fiber of our democracy. It feels like hyperbole to say that, but it is not. It’s reality today, right now. These forces want to silence voices of dissent.”*⁴

Whereas, further erosion of democracy (and its checks and balances) includes erosion of the rules of law that protect natural resources and fundamental constitutional rights - thereby thwarting the mission of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership to secure a healthy environment for all Minnesotans. Examples are:

1. Withdrawal from the “Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change” (*Executive Order 14162*, January 20, 2025);

¹ See annotated list of grievances in National Park Service publication at: <https://www.nps.gov/fost/blogs/the-declaration-of-independence-what-were-they-thinking.htm> (Last visited 1/25/26.)

² Professor David Schultz, Hamline University Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies and a University of St. Thomas professor of law. Minnesota State Bar Association, *Bench and Bar*, December, 2025 <https://mnbars.org/?pg=BenchBarofMinnesota&pubAction=viewIssue&pubIssueID=63067&pubIssueItemID=410574>

³ Judge Edward J. Cleary, “A step-by-step checklist toward autocracy – moving along too easily so far – Suppressing the right to dissent and the will to resist.” *Minnesota Star Tribune*, March 25, 2025.

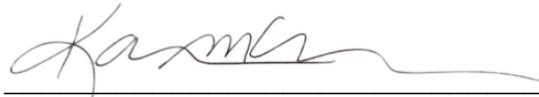
⁴ <https://www.mncenter.org/why-were-participating-ice-out-mn>. (Last visited 1/25/26.)

2. “Reinvigorating America’s Beautiful Clean Coal Industry ...” (*Executive Order 14261*, April 14, 2025);
3. Four proposals to adopt rules weakening the federal Endangered Species Act (*Federal Register*, pp. 52587-52615, November 21, 2025); and
4. The revocation of all environmental justice orders and the closure of the EPA’s regional Offices of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights.

Now, Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Minnesota Environmental Partnership urges all citizens and organizations to work together, peacefully and legally, to support and enhance democracy and the rule of law.

Adopted by the Board of Directors, Minnesota Environmental Partnership, this 27th day of January, 2026.



Karen Olson Johnson, Board Chair