

Commissioner's Advisory Committee on Natural Heritage  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Box 25, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155

Sarah Strommen  
Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sent via email and U.S. Mail

Dear Commissioner:

September 11, 2019

**Re: Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas Petition for Adoption of Rules Requiring Non-toxic Fishing Tackle and Non-toxic Ammunition**

The use of lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle in Minnesota has been an issue of concern for the Commissioner's Advisory Committee (CAC) for some time now. This committee submitted a letter recommending the use of non-toxic ammunition on SNAs to the Commissioner in 2016 and a petition to the DNR for adoption of a rule prohibiting lead fishing tackle in 2018. Both documents are attached to this letter for context.

We understand there are others throughout the state of Minnesota that share our concerns about the effects lead has on our natural environment, nongame wildlife, and human health. We are submitting this letter to express our support for the *Petition to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Adoption of Rules Requiring Non-toxic Fishing Tackle and Non-toxic Ammunition*, drafted by the Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas, and signed by ten (10) additional organizations.

We received a response to the 2018 petition from former Commissioner, Tom Landwehr, stating that the DNR did not have rule-making authority for non-toxic fishing tackle because we were not asking for rule-making on specific waterbodies (attached). The current petition, that we fully support, is now asking for rule-making on specific bodies of water—those within the loon range. Additionally, the legislative moratorium on lead-shot rule-making expired on July 1, 2019, allowing the DNR to take action on this issue.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to Minnesota joining the six states who have already adopted rules to address the issue of lead fishing tackle, and to its role as a leader in the issue of toxic lead ammunition.

Please feel to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy C Braker".

Nancy Braker, Chair  
507-222-4543, nbraker@carleton.edu  
Senior Lecturer and Director of the Carleton Cowling Arboretum  
Carleton College  
1 North College Street  
Northfield, MN 55057

Cc: Steve Colvin  
Jan Wolff

Attachments:  
2016 CAC Letter regarding Lead Ammunition at SNAs to Commissioner Landwehr;  
2018 CAC Lead Tackle Rule Petition to DNR;  
2018 DNR Response to CAC regarding Lead Tackle Petition