



Friends of Minnesota Scientific & Natural Areas

February 17, 2020

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Chair, and
Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate

VIA E-MAIL
sen.bill.ingebrigtsen@senate.mn

Re: February 18, 2020 Agenda – “Discussion on Natural Resource Damage and Restoration Grant” (BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Remediation Funds – for MPCA “Get the Lead Out” Program)

Dear Senator Ingebrigtsen and Committee Members:

Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas (FMSNA) is a Minnesota non-profit, tax-exempt [“501(c)(3)”] corporation organized to protect and enhance Minnesota’s Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs). SNAs are the crown jewels of Minnesota’s state land base, protecting some of Minnesota’s rarest and most sensitive plant and animal species and the ecosystem upon which they depend.

Fishing is allowed in 32 of our SNAs. Deposition of lead tackle within these SNAs has an obvious deleterious effect on wildlife, including loons, Minnesota’s state bird.

The Star Tribune (2/9/20) reported that \$1.27 million has been allocated - from the settlement of the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency - for its “Get the Lead Out” program. These funds have been held up.

We respectfully request the Minnesota Legislature to free up these funds to the MPCA as soon as possible.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Very truly yours,

Thomas E. Casey

Thomas E. Casey
Board Chair
Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas, Inc

Minnesota Senate
February 17, 2020

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FMSNA Board of Directors

Enclosures:

Minneapolis Star Tribune (2/9/20): "\$1.27M Grant to Aid Loons Stalled"