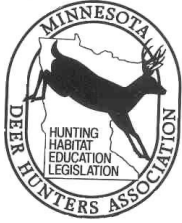

MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS ASSOCIATION



Legislative Red Alert

LEGISLATIVE RED ALERT: DEDICATED FUNDING

Every voice makes a difference, yours included! We need your help! It is IMPARATIVE that we get hundreds of supporters to contact their House Representatives immediately and urge them to support passage of legislation ensuring a citizen's oversight committee for the Game/Fish/Habitat funds from Dedicated Funding.

The Game/Fish/Habitat dedicated funding bill is running into a wall in house because some legislators do not want a citizen council recommending funding.

Below are key points that MDHA and other conservation organizations are collectively supporting regarding passing the Dedicated Funding for Game/Fish/Habitat.

Outdoor Heritage Council: A sportsmen's hunting and fishing stake-holder council comprised of 10 citizen experts and 6 legislators.

What the opposition says:

“AS A LEGISLATOR MY CONSTITUENTS ELECTED ME TO DECIDE HOW TO SPEND THEIR MONEY.”
CITIZEN COUNCIL OPPOSING LEGISLATOR.”

A citizen council is the key to make sure the money is spent wisely and does not end up as another black hole. Is your legislator or future elected officials as knowledgeable and as passionate as you, and the conservation organizations you belong to, to make decisions on Fish, Game and Habitat? We need a citizen advisory council. The fact is, all of the major conservation initiatives in our nation have passed with a citizen council as a key component. This is not new and unusual in Minnesota. We already have an arts council, The Iron Range Resources Council and the MN Clean Water Coalition to name a few. After all is said and done, the councils' recommendations will still go through the legislative appropriation committee but at least you know there were citizen experts representing your money.

“I DON'T LIKE THE ARTS COMPONENT!”

Do you not like it so much that you are willing to give up \$100,000,000 (ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS) per-year for the next 25 (twenty five) years for Fish, Game and Habitat? Yes, you read it correctly! Is that what your kids would want you to do for their future?

“WHY DEDICATED FUNDING, WON'T THIS HURT OTHER PROGRAM FUNDING NEEDS SUCH AS EDUCATION?”

No, it is coming out of a sales tax increase. Conservation and the environment in general have no lobbying strength compared to the 100's of lobbyist for Education, Agriculture and the others. This is why we get the bottom of the barrel. Time and time again by the end of the session fish, game, waters, and wildlife do not make the cut because they are not guaranteed funding through the general fund. Yes, we want to guarantee funding for the things that are important to us and Minnesota's outdoor heritage and our natural resource based economy for us and our kids.

“RECENT TAX INCREASES WILL KILL THE BILL'S CHANCES “

We will never know unless we get it out of the legislative session. All we are asking is to get out of this legislative session and let the people decide in November. We can have all summer to focus on a campaign to encourage a “yes” vote.

Email, fax or call your representatives now! Explain to them the urgency of their actions to support the Outdoor Heritage Council. Make sure to provide your name, address, and phone number so they know you are their constituent! Then, follow up in a couple days to verify they got your message and are following your wishes. And remember, always be respectful!

To find who represents you at the House, please call 651-296-2146 / 800-657-3550 or use the following links:

LINKS

House & Senate Roster: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/houseleaders.asp>

House Districts: <http://geo.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/districts/start.html>

Thank you for your help in such an important matter!