



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Walz

75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Suite 130 ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

June 3, 2022

Dear Majority Leader Miller and Speaker Hortman,

I have received, approved, signed, and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State Chapter 94, House File 3765. However, I will also take this opportunity to note my strong displeasure with the number of projects included in this bill that were not vetted by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Comprised of 17 members, including 7 public members with experience or expertise in the science, policy, or practice of the protection, conservation, preservation and enhancement of the state's environment and natural resources, the LCCMR's mission is to make funding recommendations to the legislature for special environment and natural resources projects from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The group makes annual project funding recommendations to the Minnesota legislature based on a competitive, multi-step proposal and selection process. The inclusion and role of non-legislative, public members is a critical component of the LCCMR design and is meant to allow for more public input, directly into the decision-making process.

Unfortunately, this year, due to an unwillingness to compromise during the commission vetting process, no proposal received the requisite votes needed for an LCCMR recommendation to the legislature. The bill sent to my desk has twelve legislative additions, out of a total of eighty projects—a full 15% of the bill—that were not even proposed in the LCCMR vetting process. All but one of these additions were at the expense of projects that had been submitted as a proposal and vetted by the LCCMR. I am deeply disappointed that politicians undermined the integrity of a process that includes public members who spend hundreds of hours each year reviewing and recommending projects for funding. The politicization of this process does not go unnoticed.

Moving forward, I urge the legislators on the LCCMR to reach a compromise and provide the legislature with a thoroughly vetted LCCMR bill. Additionally, I implore the legislature to cease adding unvetted projects to this bill, and to let the public member experts on the LCCMR lead and prioritize making a recommendation to the legislature. Finally, I encourage a thoughtful discourse about how we may reform the LCCMR to ensure that politics stays out of this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Walz".

Tim Walz

Governor

cc: Senator Jeremy Miller, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Melisa Lopez Franzen, Senate Minority Leader
Senator David Osmek, President of the Senate
Senator Torrey Westrom, Chief Senate Author
Representative Kurt Daudt, House Minority Leader
Representative Rick Hansen, Chief House Author
The Honorable Steve Simon, Secretary of State
Mr. Cal Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Patrick Murphy, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Ryan Inman, Revisor of Statutes
Representative Patty Acomb, LCCMR legislative member
Senator Gary Dams, LCCMR legislative member
Senator Kari Dziedzic, LCCMR legislative member
Senator Founng Hawj, LCCMR legislative member
Senator Bill Ingebrigsten, LCCMR legislative member
Representative Dale Lueck, LCCMR legislative member
Representative Kelly Morrison, LCCMR legislative member
Representative Tama Theis, LCCMR legislative member