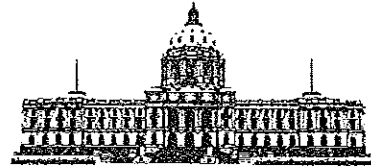


SENATOR ELLEN R. ANDERSON
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Senate

State of Minnesota

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November 21, 2008

Dear LCCMR Members,

I'm sorry I can't attend the meeting today. I'm in Manitoba attending a Midwestern Governor's Association meeting on negotiating a regional cap and trade program.

Thank you all for your help in passing the Legacy Amendment that will ensure dedicated funding for clean air, land and habitat, and parks and for our cultural legacy. The New York Times said on Wednesday that this was the strongest vote in support of natural resources in history.

I suggest we spend some time, maybe in a retreat or a special meeting to refine the purpose of the Environmental Trust Fund in light of the new dedicated funds. I think we should define our role a little differently than the other funds will and think about what we can fund uniquely that Legacy funds won't. We might want to focus on science-driven research and demonstration projects, innovative ideas that can be replicated, foundational data, and energy and climate change strategies since these are areas for which the Legacy funds are less likely to be used. For example, we should consider removing large land acquisition projects from this year's allocation and referring them to the Heritage Council, and think about doing the same with some of the water projects that would fall under the Clean Water Legacy program, while considering funding those water projects that are innovative, new ideas or otherwise meet our criteria.

Given that we're expecting a massive state budget deficit, we also need to consider the political realities of how to protect our recommendations in the Legislature to maintain the integrity of our process. I think the proposals that directly reduce carbon emissions and help Minnesota citizens protect our natural resources, and help stimulate the economy, will be especially valuable this year. I'm especially supportive of hearing proposals that will help citizens reduce their energy consumption.

Thank you for considering my comments today.

Sincerely,

Ellen Anderson