



Hello members, families and friends,

Here is a recent letter that I got from Jeff Forester, our wonderful lobbyist, for our lake association. Please read and "ACT NOW" by clicking on the red button below to help our lake!

MN has a new Governor and a new State House of Representatives. This represents an opportunity for Lake Associations in Minnesota that we have not had for some years.

Governor elect Tim Walz said in his acceptance speech, "One Minnesota means that everyone who is impacted by the decisions we make will have a seat at the table."

Then, on MPR the morning after the election, Governor-Elect Walz talked about bringing in the people who are impacted by his appointments to his cabinet to be involved in the process of appointing his new agency commissioners.

MLR and our lake association members have an opportunity to be at the table but we should act now. And unlike many of the "stakeholders" who have long had a loud voice within agency policy making, lake associations represent actual citizens who are working to protect the public good of clean water. This is an authentic, yet long overlooked, constituency.

Please click the red ACT NOW button above to:

- Appoint a DNR Commissioner who believes in partnerships and works to develop positive working relationship with local citizen's groups,
- Appoint Lake Association representatives to the funding and advisory committees that steer statewide programs,
- Leverage Lake Association energy through civic partnerships to protect lakes and rivers.

We are hopeful that with a change in leadership comes an opportunity for a more inclusive and authentic role for active citizens to play in policy making in Minnesota.

There are no lake associations representatives on the Clean Water Council, which recommends over \$100 million annually for clean water grants in MN, no lake association representative on the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, whose mission is to protect Minnesota's outdoor heritage and recommends more than \$100 million annually. While some lake association members that serve on various volunteer committees for the DNR are invited to the DNR Roundtable, no lake association itself is invited even though lake associations contribute more (\$400k annually) to fish stocking in MN than any other group.

We now have a chance to change that.

Lake associations are the largest (estimated over 200,000 members statewide), most generous with about \$6.2 million spent collectively on lake projects, and most dedicated with 1.25 million volunteer hours given annually, conservation group in the state.

Between now and the start of the legislative session both Governor Walz and new House Speaker-elect Melissa Hortman will have the opportunity to make new appointments to the Clean Water Council and the Lessard Sams Council. Governor-elect Walz will be choosing a new DNR Commissioner, hopefully one that VALUES the work and contributions of citizens and

appreciates the complexity of protecting water resources for future generations.

Click the ACT NOW button above to sign on to a letter urging lake association inclusion in the various funding councils, and a larger focus on State, Local Government and local nonprofit citizens groups to protect our lakes and rivers. The ACT NOW button will generate an email back to me so that I can add your lake association to the list of signers. **Include your name, the name of your lake association, and the number of members you have.**

We will deliver this letter to the Governor-elect Walz, the new Speaker of the House Hortman and Senate Majority Leader Gazelka.

Thank you for all you do for our lakes and rivers,

Jeff

ACT NOW

Please look for the Big Fish Lake Membership Letter and Invoice coming soon in the mail to you. Thank you for your time!

Gratefully,

Kit Ferber
President
320-249-4800

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