The Rise & Repair Platform

Also available at riseandrepair.org/platform

Reparations & Sovereignty

Respecting Indigenous and tribal sovereignty, honoring treaties, engaging in Free Prior & Informed Consent, enacting reparations, and supporting Land Back initiatives are central policymaking needs from our elected officials in Minnesota.

SUPPORT HF 3783 / SF 3557 ~ Reservation Land Requirements ~ Tax-forfeited land that includes land within boundary of Indian reservation required to be offered to affected bands before being offered for sale to other parties.

SUPPORT HF 4193 / SF 3986 ~ Return U of M Forestry Land to Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa ~ Cloquet Forestry Center state-owned land transferred to University of Minnesota, defeasance of outstanding debt on state bond financed property funding provided, and money appropriated.

SUPPORT HF 4304 / SF 3480 ~ White Earth State Forest land transfer to the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe ~ White Earth State Forest land transfer to the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe requirement; tax-forfeited land disposition modification; White Earth State Forest Elimination. This bill would return approximately 155,000 acres of State Forest Land back to the White Earth Band.

SUPPORT HF 3651 / SF 3693 ~ Renegotiate 1854 Treaty Authority ~ A Bill to Renegotiate the 1854 Treaty Authority to ensure the MN DNR protects the land under the Treaty.

SUPPORT HF 3490 / SF 3416 ~ Prohibition on the Sale of Human Remains ~ Sale of human remains for commercial purposes prohibited, and felony offense established.

SUPPORT ~ A Resolution for the Rights of Manoomin/Psin ~ This resolution aims to recognize the rights of Manoomin/Psin to exist, flourish, and regenerate. It also acknowledges that Manoomin/Psin is central to Anishinaabe and Dakota cultures as well as the ecosystems here in Minnesota.

Climate Goals & Truthtelling

Minnesota must meet or exceed State and Federal climate goals, acting locally to align with those set on the global stage. No false solutions!

SUPPORT HF 2297 / SF 476 ~ Climate Justice Education Bill ~ Creation of a Climate Justice curriculum for educators to implement & requires school districts to implement it.

SUPPORT HF 3577 / SF 3561 ~ Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act (PRA) ~ Require producers/brands pay for packaging recycling and set fees to incentivize reduction and recyclability.

OPPOSE HF 342 / SF 298 ~ Carbon Capture & Sequestration, State Policy ~ Establishing state policy supporting the deployment of carbon capture and sequestration technologies. This bill sets Minnesota on a track to invest in Co2 Pipelines & carbon sequestration, a FALSE SOLUTION to the climate crisis.

Economic Development and Just Transition

Minnesota's law for 100% Carbon-Free Electricity by 2040 is the foundation for our energy transition. Leveraging federal and state funds will speed the transition to renewable energy with local innovation and workers. Now we must ensure the design, implementation and oversight of this transition is just and empowers people, not corporations.

SUPPORT HF 3566 / SF 3940 ~ 100% E-Waste Collection/ Recycling ~ A bill to enable 100% diversion of electronic waste for recycling, paid for by producers and retailers. Learn more at RECA-US.org

SUPPORT HF 4292 / SF 4426 ~ Ratepayer Protection Act ~ Ending rate recovery for utility lobbying, advertising, marketing, fossil fuel trade association dues, and putting limits on recovery for Executive compensation

SUPPORT THE NEED FOR a Freedom to Invest Act ~ The Freedom to Invest Act improves the MSBI's management of systemic risks by codifying factors that fiduciaries in Minnesota must consider when making investment decisions with Minnesota workers' money. It also requires MSBI to analyze its exposure to climate risk going forward. These provisions will ensure that external asset managers do not abandon ESG risk analysis, in keeping with the robust data showing that ESG analysis can bolster pension fund performance and help pension fund managers monitor financial stability risks.

Regulatory Protection of People, Land, Air and Water

Amidst the climate and equity crises, it is imperative that our regulatory institutions protect our Air, Land, Water, and People, not corporate profits. State agencies must respect the rights of Indigenous people and sovereignty of tribal nations within the geographic bounds of the State of Minnesota.

SUPPORT HF 1618 / SF 1416 ~ Prove it First! ~ Common-sense protection for all of Minnesota's watersheds. Based off the Prove It First law passed in Wisconsin for 20 years. Must prove that a similar mine has been in operation for at least 10 years without polluting and has been closed for at least 10 years without polluting. Learn more!

SUPPORT THE NEED for a "Consumer Demand Forecast" ~ A bill to define and require a forecast of ultimate consumer demand for major crude oil pipelines at the Public Utilities Commission, rather than only looking at oil supply or oil industry wishes.

Environmental Justice

Native, BPOC and economically disadvantaged communities often bear the brunt of industrial environmental pollution. We must reverse this pattern, center the needs of those most impacted, ensure these communities have a decisive voice in planning, and make sure benefits flow first to people who have been denied economic opportunity in our current system.

SUPPORT HF 4231 / SF 4316 ~ Amortization for Polluting Facilities ~ Allows cities to require nonconforming polluting facilities to close and move after a period of time. Part of the legislative response to Smith Foundry.

SUPPORT HF 3345 / SF 3541 ~ Plastic Bag Pre-emption Reversal! ~ Overturn the prohibition on municipal single-use plastic bag bans. Learn More & Call to Action via Clean Water Action!

WATER LEGACY

Protecting Wild Rice from Sulfate Pollution

What is Minnesota Wild Rice (Manoomin)?

- Annual plant that grows in lake and stream sediments, bioindicator for clean water.
- Food and habitat for waterfowl, wildlife, and fish.
- High protein, sustainable food; Minnesota's state grain.
- Culturally and economically vital for Ojibwe and Lakota people, who have reserved rights to gather wild rice guaranteed by treaties.
- Despite loss to development, Minnesota still has more wild rice than any other state.

Glen Jackson, Sr. and Jr., harvesting wild rice. Photo by Dale Kakkak.

What are the Dangers of Sulfate Pollution?

- Science has confirmed that sulfate levels over 10 parts per million (mg/L) impair wild rice.
- Sulfate releases mercury from sediments and increases toxic methylmercury in the food chain and fish.
- One in 10 infants in Minnesota's Lake Superior region are born with unsafe mercury levels.
- Sulfate loading also releases nitrogen and phosphorus from sediments, resulting in algae blooms in once-clear lakes.

Sulfate Pollution Standard and Mining Threats

Why do Polluters Oppose Sulfate Controls?

- Taconite mines and coal plants are the largest dischargers of sulfate today in Minnesota.
- Copper-nickel sulfide ore mining would discharge massive quantities of sulfate.
- Minnesota adopted a federally-approved 10 mg/L wild rice sulfate standard in 1973.
- For decades, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) refused to enforce the wild rice standard.
- In 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) told MPCA it must enforce Minnesota's sulfate rule.

Acid mine drainage from sulfide mining.

WaterLegacy's Work in Alliance with Tribes to Protect Wild Rice

Wild Rice Sulfate Standard

- **2012** When mining polluters sued to block enforcement of the wild rice sulfate standard, WaterLegacy intervened and **won in district court and the appeals court**.
- **2018** WaterLegacy won a huge victory when the **Administrative Law Judge disapproved MPCA's repeal plan and upheld the wild rice sulfate standard**.
- **2018** WaterLegacy and our allies won another important victory when **Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed bills to repeal the wild rice sulfate standard**.
- **2021** In a case filed by WaterLegacy and the Fond du Lac Band, Minnesota's appeals court ruled **the sulfate standard must be enforced under the Clean Water Act.**
- **2022** The U.S. EPA agreed with WaterLegacy that the Minnesota's water program under **the Clean Water Act must apply the sulfate standard, despite Minnesota session laws**.

Wild Rice Impaired Waters

- Listing waters as "impaired" is necessary to prevent more pollution and restore them.
- From 2012 to 2023, WaterLegacy has worked with Tribes to demand that MPCA list wild rice waters impaired due to sulfate.
- **In 2021, for the first time ever, the EPA overruled MPCA and listed 33 wild rice waters impaired due to sulfate.**
- **In 2024, the MPCA proposed to list 55 wild rice waters impaired due to sulfate. The key question now is whether sulfate will be reduced!**

Join Our Work to Protect Wild Rice

- **Sign up** at **waterlegacy.org** to learn about upcoming events and opportunities to protect wild rice.
- **Follow** WaterLegacy on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- **Visit us at waterlegacy.org** and learn more about wild rice and sulfide mining threats.
- **Let us know** about threats to wild rice in your community or ways in which we can partner with you and your neighbors to protect clean water, wild rice, health, and tribal reserved rights.

Arne Vainio Ricing.

Do you want to reach us? Contact sophia@waterlegacy.org

LSP 2024 Legislative Agenda

Keeping People & the Land Together

LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

BEGINNING FARMERS

Aspiring farmers want and need hands-on farming experience, but working on a farm generally does not pay enough to allow aspiring farmers to save the money needed to start their own operations. At the same time, emerging, beginning, and small and mid-sized farms need more labor but are financially restricted.

LSP is championing:

- **The Next Generation Minnesota Farmer Act**, which would create a grant program, routed through the Department of Employment and Economic Development, for organizations to create fellowship programs for aspiring farmers to get hands-on farming skills and farm business management skills on a small or mid-sized farm while being paid a living wage and reducing the burden of the cost of labor for small and mid-sized farms. (S.F. xxxx, H.F. xxxx - Pursell)

CLIMATE

Increasingly, Minnesotans are experiencing the effects of climate change — from intense flooding to historic periods of drought to severe storms — and farmers are on the front lines. With sustainable and regenerative practices, farms can build resilience across our landscapes, sequester carbon, and support our soil's health. Farmers need every tool available to them to adopt more practices that build healthy soil on the land.

LSP is championing:

- **Setting aside 30% of existing soil health cost-share and grant programs for emerging farmers** to increase the impact and equity of state investments in soil health. (S.F xxxx, H.F. xxxx - Pursell)
- **Building upon Olmsted County's successful Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Program**, which pays farmers for results — higher soil carbon, cleaner water, and more resilient landscapes — by expanding it statewide, starting in the vulnerable karst region of southeastern Minnesota. (S.F xxxx, H.F. xxxx - Pursell)

REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Transforming our farm and food system requires building the infrastructure needed by small and mid-sized farms and by rural and urban communities to create functioning local and regional food systems that support regenerative farming and provide all people with the nourishing foods they want and need.

- **Increasing Farm-to-School funding**, which is particularly important with Minnesota's new Universal Free School Meals Program. Minnesota's farmers, littlest eaters, and school districts all win when public school meals are as local and high-quality as possible. (S.F. 3528 - Gustafson, H.F. xxxx - Pursell)
- **Piloting Local Food Procurement Coordinator positions** across the state to facilitate relationships between farmers, schools, institutions, and community organizations in order to scale the purchase of local food and support farmers accessing new markets. (S.F. 3445 - Gustafson, H.F. 3862 - Sencer-Mura)

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Our farm and food system, agricultural and rural economies, as well as our water, soil, and climate, are healthier and more resilient with a less consolidated livestock system. As the livestock sector, particularly dairy, becomes increasingly consolidated, small and mid-sized farms are driven off the land, rural communities face depopulation, and local economies become less resilient. The same forces driving consolidation are also significant contributors to water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. While the biggest operations get bigger, small and mid-sized farms go out of business, water is contaminated, and climate change is exacerbated.

- **Reforming manure management** for the largest 11% of feedlots by updating MN Pollution Control Agency feedlot rules and other relevant Minnesota laws to address nitrate contamination & poor water quality in Greater MN. (S.F xxxx - Kunesh, H.F. xxxx - Smith)
- **Strengthening the environmental review and permitting process of large-scale manure digesters**, false climate solutions contributing to the consolidation of the livestock industry. (S.F xxxx, H.F. xxxx)

LSP'S MEMBER-LED AGENDA DEVELOPMENT

LSP's 2024 legislative agenda was developed by LSP's Policy Steering Committees and Working Groups, made up of farmers, rural Minnesotans, agricultural professionals, and others. These groups of LSP members engaged LSP's broader membership and supporters, as well as partners. LSP's Steering Committees & Working Groups include:

- Animal Agriculture Policy Steering Committee
- Climate Steering Committee
- Land Access & Emerging Farmers Policy Working Group

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What is the Climate Justice Education Bill?

The Climate Justice Education Bill (SF 476/HF 2297)reads: *the commissioner of education must, in consultation with the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency, environmental organizations, teachers, and other qualified experts, provide a climate justice model program for elementary and secondary school students aligned with current scientific research... A model program must include climate justice content that: is scientifically accurate; is age, disability, and developmentally accessible; is inclusive of underrepresented students; encourages sharing and comprehension of climate justice stories; and is grounded in and intersectionality on:*
(1) human activities causing climate change and the risk to all life forms;
(2) climate change's disproportionate effects on communities facing systemic oppression, specifically Black, Indigenous, and other persons of color; people with disabilities; and low-income communities globally;
(3) the relationship between systemic change and accessible environmental stewardship; and
(4) the growing number of economic and environmental solutions, which should be led by communities most impacted by the climate crisis.

Why is the Climate Justice Education Bill Important?

Students are asking that climate justice be taught in our schools
Students around the country are demanding they learn about climate change in their classrooms and throughout their schooling. The first two versions of this bill were written by Minnesota high school students and this version is being stewarded by students from Youth Environmental Activists (YEA!) and Youth N' Power.

Education is critical to implement our greenhouse reduction and environmental justice goals
To support and sustain our climate goals we must ignite and activate our students with a comprehensive climate justice education. Climate justice education integrates science and traditional ways of knowing, centers the persistent inequities experienced by socially and racially marginalized communities, defends the needs of youth and frontline communities, and focuses on solutions rather than fear. A research study has even shown a link between education and greenhouse gas reduction.

There is support for education on climate change
According to the Yale Climate Opinion Maps, 76% of Minnesotans believe schools should teach about global warming.

There is precedent
Around the country, States are mandating climate change education be taught. Washington, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Maine are just a few states that have recently passed legislation that includes funding and training for educators.

New Jersey has created a resource hub for educators and the general public to access when it comes to teaching Climate Justice which can be found here. We hope to have a similar model in MN that teaches Climate Justice in an interdisciplinary way for all educators and all students.

How to Get Involved and Support

Show your support for climate justice education in Minnesota's schools!

1. Follow the bill's progress.
2. Ask your Senator to support the bill.
3. Ask your Representative to support the bill.
4. Check out our toolkit for scripts, research, and other advocacy materials!
5. Submit written testimony to b.rosas@climategen.org
6. Show up at the next hearing (TBD)

CLEAN HEAT - THE GOAL WE NEED

Meeting climate goals requires **early** and **equitable** action

"Equity must be at the center of the global response... Wealthier countries will have to cut emissions more quickly, making reductions by 2030 beyond those currently proposed and reaching net-zero emissions before 2050."

- the New England Journal of Medicine, signed by 19 medical journals

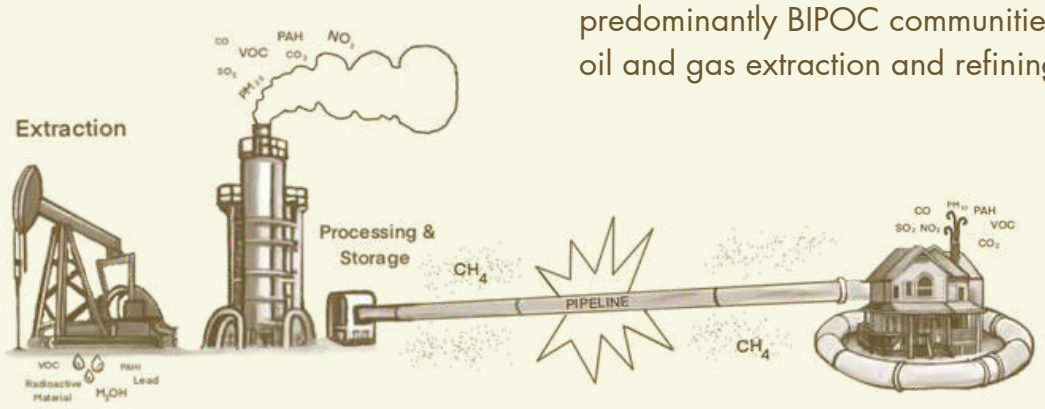
NATURAL GAS IS METHANE & IT IS MAKING US SICK

Methane gas is 86 times as potent as CO2

- "Natural gas" is approximately 90% methane plus ethane, butane, & propane
- Methane leaks occur throughout the supply chain from extraction to our homes
- 75% of air pollution from gas stoves is emitted when the gas stoves are off [1]
- The majority of methane gas extraction requires fracking, polluting gas and air

Pollution from methane gas is driving up asthma and cancer rates

- Cooking with gas stoves creates NO2 and releases PM2.5, both lung irritants
- 12.7% of childhood asthma cases are attributed to the use of gas stoves [2]
- Gas stoves emit benzene levels above secondhand smoke: even low doses of benzene in the air pose risk of cancers [3]
- Toxic pollution particularly impacts predominantly BIPOC communities near oil and gas extraction and refining sites [4]



WHY WE NEED TO BEAT 2050

27 years gives the fossil fuel industry too much time to slow walk and obstruct progress- as they are doing now by:

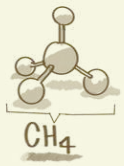
Incentivizing the continued buildout of gas infrastructure

- CenterPoint Energy awards cash and fully paid trips for builders who install gas appliances and heating [5]

Investing in false solutions like manure lagoons & landfills

- Renewable natural gas depends on manure lagoons from feedlots, impacting community air and water quality

WE HAVE WHAT WE NEED TO GET OFF METHANE GAS



ELECTRIFICATION AND EFFICIENCY

- Heat pumps for air and water are ready now and getting better and better
- Proper insulation ensures efficient use of clean heat and cooling
- Electric backup (or wood stove) to partner with heat pumps during extreme temperatures
- Clean heat technology and more efficient practices building practices by contractors will be accelerated by a quicker phaseout of natural gas

WHAT OTHER PLACES ARE DOING

- **New York State**: First state in the nation to pass a law banning natural gas and other fossil fuels in most new buildings
- **Denver**: New building codes in Denver will ban natural gas furnaces and water heaters in new commercial and multifamily construction starting in 2024
- **Chicago**: City council is considering banning natural gas in new buildings
- **Massachusetts**: 10 cities/towns will ban natural gas in all major renovation projects within their borders
- **Washington DC:** Banned most natural gas use in new buildings and outlines a net-zero construction requirement for all new buildings and substantial renovations by 2026

HOW CAN MN LEAD WITH AN EARLIER GOAL?

By committing to the right Clean Heat deadline MN can:

Model how clean heat can be achieved	Prove the benefits this transition can bring	Spur technological and workforce development	Inspire others to rapidly transition

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3. "Gas stoves emit benzene levels above secondhand smoke, US study finds" https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jun/20/gas-stoves-benzene-levels-study
4. "Black mortality rates from power plant pollution are 25% higher than the population average and 12% higher than the rates for Whites" & "Oil and gas disposal wells are more than twice as common in areas with >=80% BIPOC than in majority White areas" https://energywecantafford.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Gas-Brief_revisions4.pdf
1. "Revealed: US utility firms offer builders cash and trips to fit new homes with gas appliances" https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/dec/21/new-home-builder-contractor-fossil-fuel-utilities-natural-gas

Ratepayer Protection Act

The Ratepayer Protection Act (HF 4292 | SF 4426) would prevent Minnesota's investor-owned utilities from using ratepayer money against ratepayer interests, by spending it on political influence activities and other unjustified costs.

What This Bill Does

- Closes loopholes in existing policies to ensure investor-owned utilities can't use money from ratepayer bills to lobby regulators or lawmakers;
- Strengthens restrictions on what expenses investor-owned utilities can pass on to ratepayers through rates, addressing trade organization dues, private jet flights, event sponsorships, and more; and
- Creates expanded disclosures and enforcement mechanisms for transparency and compliance.

Why It's Important

- Minnesotans should only pay for utility services provided in the public interest, not for expenses designed to enrich utility executives and shareholders.
- Stopping utilities from including unjustified expenses in customer rates will particularly protect Minnesotans who have lower incomes, are people of color, and/or are renters — groups with disproportionately higher energy burdens.
- Minnesota is part of a movement — Colorado, Connecticut, and Maine have already passed similar legislation, and nine other states have introduced bills.

For More Information

- On the Ratepayer Protection Act, contact Patty O'Keefe (*patty.okeefe@sierraclub.org*) or Bobby King (*bking@solarunitedneighbors.org*).
- On the CLEAR Energy Coalition, contact Katie Kienbaum (*kkienbaum@ilsr.org*).

Land Back as a Key Policy Strategy for Climate Action

Coalition to dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery

HF 4304 / SF 3480 ~ White Earth State Forest land transfer to the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe ~ White Earth State Forest land transfer to the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe requirement; tax-forfeited land disposition modification; White Earth State Forest Elimination. This bill would return approximately 155,000 acres of State Forest Land back to the White Earth Band.

Please support the return of state-owned land to the stewardship of Native peoples.

Causes of Climate Change and Ecological Devastation:

- The U.S. used policies such as the Dawes Act, the Indian Reorganization Act, the Indian Removal Act, the Indian Relocation act, boarding schools, and death marches to wrest the land from Indigenous Peoples and disrupt their cultures.
- Ecological disruption is caused by the exploitative practices of capitalism and white settler colonialism, and Western ideas about economy and dominance.
- Climate change is the result of existing systems of capitalism, extraction, and land ownership that contribute to ongoing climate change.
- The origins of both capitalism and climate change are land theft; we need solutions that return land to Indigenous Peoples' stewardship.

Support for Indigenous Land Management and Land Back:

- There is a lot of evidence that Indigenous traditional land management practices increase biodiversity, which is necessary for healthy ecosystems that we all depend on.
- Indigenous Peoples make up 5% of the global population, yet protect 80% of the world's biodiversity (United Nations statistic).
- Native peoples are often consulted for their land knowledge, without being given opportunities to practice their worldviews and protocols. Native culture practices can address climate harms created by a colonial government.
- Indigenous worldviews don't treat land as property; rather, caring for land is a spiritual endeavor, of reciprocity with, responsibility and respect for more-than-human relatives.

Please support land return and the revitalization of Indigenous lifeways. When Native cultures prevail, we all benefit from increased biodiversity in soil, plant, and animal life.

February 15, 2024

Members of the Senate
Members of the House of Representatives

On February 1, 2024, four state agencies submitted a report on transportation fuels which recommended that Minnesota adopt a Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS), which they refer to as a "Clean Transportation Standard" or (CTS). The agencies said their proposal is the best alternative despite not considering any others. **We ask you to reject their proposal.**

Four organizations, in response to the fuels report, published a Minority Report which details the reasons a Midwestern LCFS will not be a climate solution. The proposed technology-neutral LCFS using the Argonne GREET model to estimate carbon intensity is not neutral but is **so strongly biased in favor of ethanol** and other biofuels that it **will likely increase emissions, not decrease emissions**.

On Saturday, the StarTribune published a commentary article by University of Minnesota Professor Jason Hill titled "Low carbon mandate could increase emissions in Minnesota." Dr Hill wrote that the proposed carbon intensity scores are "essentially meaningless."

The state agencies' report is based on fundamental errors, including the faulty assumption that ethanol is helping the climate. In reality, **ethanol is likely 24% worse than gasoline.** A recent study from the University of Wisconsin found that the carbon intensity of corn ethanol produced under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is "no less than gasoline and likely at least 24% higher." The proposed LCFS is, like ethanol itself, out of date. They have both been left behind by electrification. Electric vehicles (EVs) are already significantly less polluting today and EVs existing superiority over vehicles with internal combustion engines will only grow as our electric grid continues to decarbonize.

Other Flaws in the Proposed LCFS:

> **Encourages Carbon Pipelines and Enhanced Oil Recovery.** Oil and ethanol industries mutually benefit from their plan to capture carbon emissions from ethanol plants. The captured carbon would be piped to North Dakota where it will almost certainly be used to push more oil out of the ground in a process called enhanced oil recovery (EOR). Ensuring the continued availability of a pure stream of CO_2 from ethanol plants is an essential part of the oil and ethanol business plan. Their business plan doesn't care about the long-term success of our farmers, and instead hopes to ensure their reliance on a single crop - thereby locking in the availability of CO_2 pollution from corn ethanol production for years to come.

Provides Perverse Incentives to Never Stop Polluting. The proposed LCFS could worsen the climate crisis by delaying real climate action and by extending the economic lifespan of fossil fuels. Even if direct credits for EOR are prohibited, further commodification of CO_2 (selling CO_2 pollution from ethanol plants) creates a perverse economic incentive to never stop producing CO_2, a cycle which has been described as "the more you burn, the more you earn." This will further incentivize the pipeline. Economic effects such as these are not included in the recommended GREET model to estimate climate impact.

Misplaced Spending: Nearly $800 Million "needed" to "Upgrade" Gas Stations & Distribution Systems. Minnesota's existing fuel-dispensing infrastructure is not designed to handle higher blends of ethanol like E15 or E20. The industry-dominated Governor's Council on Biofuels therefore recommended spending approximately $771 million to $784 million to "upgrade" gas stations to handle higher ethanol blends. These "upgrades" would constitute a massive reinvestment in the liquid fuel infrastructure that science tells us is a dead-end pathway. This spending would also have an opportunity cost as Minnesota could have far greater positive effects on climate by investing nearly $800 million in electrification or other solutions. Again, economic effects such as these are not included in the recommended GREET model to estimate climate impact.

Impacts on Water & Soil. The proposed LCFS fails to consider other environmental impacts of biofuel production and consumption and perpetuates the harms of fossil fuels and ethanol, which are responsible for significant air, soil, and water pollution, as well as contamination of drinking water due to pesticides and nitrates. Ethanol production is also very water intensive, depleting Minnesota aquifers. In addition, standard row crop corn growing causes contamination of soil with pesticides and loss of valuable topsoil.

Public Health Impacts. Rural communities in Minnesota disproportionately suffer the air and water pollution emitted from the increased use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers associated with ethanol production. Pesticides pose the most risk to agricultural workers and their families. Nitrates in well water contribute to blue baby syndrome, increased risk for gastric cancer, and other health problems. In addition, BIPOC communities that live near refineries and other fossil fuel facilities continue to be exposed to fossil fuel pollution that puts them at higher risk for cancer and respiratory problems due to living near these facilities.

Selective Application of West Coast Approaches. Promoters of an LCFS say they are inspired by LCFS policies in California, Oregon and Washington. But in those states, the LCFS is one part of a suite of tools to address transportation emissions. LCFS proponents, including among state agencies, ignore the effective tools and pick the one tool that promotes ethanol, the buildout of carbon pipelines and enhanced oil recovery.

Delay in climate action through implementation of an LCFS does not meet the need for swift reduction in carbon emissions to save lives. It could extend the life of liquid fossil fuels for decades, delaying climate action and consequent air pollution linked to excess numbers of premature deaths and increased rates of respiratory and other chronic illnesses.

One Area of Agreement

The Minority Report noted that, "industry representatives have also repeatedly argued that they cannot meet the carbon reduction targets" set out in the CTS bill. In this one key regard, we agree. Not only are the fossil fuel and ethanol industries not able to meet these targets required by science, they are not motivated to try: making such reductions would hurt their bottom line and business model. They do not

think they can meet the targets with their technologies and this LCFS tool. And we agree. So we must change the technologies and tools, not the targets."

Politics of Passing A Bill

The political rationale behind passing a LCFS is as concerning as the proposal itself. We're told that the LCFS "needs to increase ethanol in the short term" and the agriculture industry "needs to get something out of this" or it can't get a majority vote in the Senate.

Undoubtedly, some of those advocating for an LCFS have the best intentions. But very powerful oil and ethanol interests want a LCFS for the worst reasons. And their influence over state agencies, as demonstrated by the CTS work group process itself, is highly concerning. The administration's choice to leave details of the program to rulemaking effectively cuts legislators out of true decision making. Legislators are being asked to vote for a program whose results will likely look very different from their expectations.

The Minnesota Legislature passed historic climate bills in 2023. Thank you for your leadership. We need to stay focused on real solutions.

Signed,

Victoria Bogdan Tejeda, Center for Biological Diversity

B Rosas, Climate Generation

Carolina Ortiz, COPAL

Sarah Mooradian, CURE (formerly Clean Up the River Environment)

Dani Replogle, Food & Water Watch

Kathleen Schuler, Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (HPHC)

Ben Lilliston, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)

Krystle D'Alencar, Minnesota Environmental Justice Table

Tee McClenty, MN350 Action

Laurie Schneider, Pollinator Friendly Alliance

Peter Wagenius, Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Robert Haider, Take Action MN

Let’s build energy infrastructure based on what real people need, not what big oil companies want

Proposal: update Minn. Stat. § 216B to define and require a consumer demand forecast for oil infrastructure projects such as pipelines and refineries.

Current law allows applicants for a Certificate of Need at the Public Utilities Commission to sidestep the interests of Minnesota consumers by using an outdated justification process for a project like an oil pipeline based essentially on oil shippers’ desire to ship crude oil to refineries, regardless of whether end-product users will need it in coming years. Our proposed change addresses one of the regulatory failings that led to the Line 3 pipeline, which was approved without demonstration of end-user demand.

We want to add a section to 216B, which governs the Certificate of Need process at the PUC, to require a forecast of demand from “ultimate consumers” of oil in Minnesota and neighboring states. Such a forecast would include historical and present use rates, present and anticipated conservation policies, shifts in energy use, price, population growth, and the impact of technology that may heighten or suppress demand. Of particular interest at the present time is the transition to electric vehicles, which has the potential to dramatically reduce demand for liquid fuel.

Major oil infrastructure projects are huge contributors to global climate change. For example, the recently-completed Line 3 Pipeline carries oil with an emissions impact equal to 50 coal power plants. All too often, this kind of fossil fuel infrastructure is sited on tribal land or treaty territory, driving unjust local impacts while the benefits flow out of state to major oil companies. Updating the Certificate of Need law to require explicit consideration of ultimate consumer demand for petroleum infrastructure is a common sense change that would help bring an end to corporate/extractive projects that risk our lands, waters, and community without lasting local benefit.

Contact: Andy Pearson at MN350, andy@mn350.org

100% E-WASTE RECYCLING

A BILL TO IMPROVE ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION

METALS FOR ENERGY TRANSITION

Minnesota's annual electronic waste stream contains $3 billion dollars worth of precious metals.

By recycling our e-waste, we can create 1700 direct jobs, and get back on track for supplying metals for the energy transition.

HF3566 / SF3940: a Path to 100%

Expand the definition
By creating a comprehensive definition of electronic waste to enable 100% collection

Provide free collection for all
Removing the financial barrier for all Minnesotans. Funded by manufacturers of some products, and a retailer fee for the remainder of electronic devices

Incentives for waste diversion.
Directly reimburse collection sites for the electronics recycled

Inaction is costing us. Batteries from electronic devices are increasingly causing local landfill fires. In 2023 Rice County Landfill had a battery fire that polluted the air, water and crops for miles.

Itis time to replace our program from 2007 that relies heavily on county solid waste money and sends most of it's funds out of Minnesota.

! WORKERS AT RISK !

Weekly U.S. hauling truck fires are caused by batteries from electronic devices,

70%

Of landfill lead pollution is from discarded electronics.

Maria Jensen mjensen@reca-us.org

HF 3566/ SF 3940

SUPPORTERS

RECA
RECYCLING ELECTRONICS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Eureka Recycling
Cosmic Recycling LLC
MN Tech for Success
Electronics Recycling of Minnesota
Repowered (Electronics Recycler)
Talon Metals
Avalon School
Lichen Labs LLC
Growing Futures LLC
Cooperative Energy Futures
Itasca Clean Energy Team
MN Zero Waste Coalition
Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota

Ely Climate Group
MN350 Action
Cooperative Energy Futures
Northern Progressives
Community Power
Climate Generation
Citizens Climate Lobby
Clean Water Action Minnesota
Northeast Metro Climate Action
MN Interfaith Power & Light
Vadnais Heights Green Team
Beyond Plastics Mankato Area
Project Earth
CURE

MCEA - Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth Climate Action Team
Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness
Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
MN Division of the Izaak Walton League of America
Elders Climate Action of the Twin Cities

HUNGER SOLUTIONS
Winning Minnesota's Food Fight

the food group

From Market Bucks to Fresh Bucks

Improving Access to Healthy Foods

How does Market Bucks work now?

Market Bucks is a farmers market nutrition incentive program designed to help SNAP customers increase their purchasing power at farmers markets and mobile markets across Minnesota.

SNAP customers can use their EBT card at the market and receive a dollar-for-dollar match on all SNAP spending at the market, up to $10 per market visit. Customers can also receive an extra Produce Market Bucks match for fruits and vegetables at the market, up to an additional $10 per market visit.

The program leverages both state funds through the Health Eating Here at Home program and federal funds through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program.

Why is an expansion to Fresh Bucks needed?

SNAP customers want to be able to purchase healthy foods like fresh fruits and vegetables year-round, but often struggle to afford those purchases. By offering a 50% discount to SNAP customers at grocery stores and other food retail settings, we can improve access to healthy foods for low-income Minnesotans.

Expanding this nutrition incentive model to more food retailers is a win-win-win:

- Customers win by being able to stretch their buying power, making healthy food more affordable for low income residents.
- Food retailers win by bringing in more customers able to afford produce purchases.
- Communities win with increased local economic activity, a stronger sense of community, and healthier people.

Piloting Fresh Bucks:

We are seeking $1 million from the Minnesota legislature in 2024 to launch a pilot, expanding the nutrition incentive model to a variety of retail settings with the following parameters:

- Customers using SNAP at participating stores will receive 50% off their produce purchases.
- Retailers will be reimbursed for the cost of providing this discount on a monthly basis.
- Interested retailers may apply for a grant of $10,000 - $100,000 to conduct a 1-year pilot.
- This initiative will support 5-10 retailers interested in participating in this project across urban, suburban and rural areas and a variety of retail models including traditional grocery stores, ethnic markets and corner stores.
- Communities with low food access or high SNAP participation will be prioritized.
- Participating retailers will receive support including community outreach to SNAP customers in their service area and marketing materials to promote the pilot program.

For more information or to get involved, contact Leah Gardner at Hunger Solutions Minnesota at lgardner@hungersolutions.org or call 651-789-9850.

Hunger Solutions Minnesota,
advocacy branch of The Food Group
555 Park Street, Suite 400
St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone: (651) 486-9860
Fax: (651) 486-9866

http://hungersolutions.org
info@hungersolutions.org

Waadookawaad Amikwag

We are members of a community science group, Waadookawaad Amikwag, which has been doing on-the-ground monitoring of the Enbridge Line 3/93 pipeline to identify and document post-construction damages. We offer Legislators our insights and collaboration.

The Line 3 project generated a huge public concern. Tribes and environmental groups filed litigation in hopes of preventing environmental damages. Indigenous Nations, independent scientists, environmental groups, faith communities, and regular citizens participated in the regulatory process warning of the environmental dangers.

State agencies assured the public that the permits they issued would prevent significant damages to wetlands and water crossings. Our data shows that agencies failed to meet that promise. In fact, work by our group forced state regulators to acknowledge an additional aquifer breach not previously reported. Many more remain in question.

Line 3 is not unique. Minnesota has a pattern of regulatory negligence. Well waters in southeast Minnesota have dangerous levels of nitrates. If not for intervention of the USEPA, this problem would not be addressed. In addition, court rulings show the MPCA worked hard to keep EPA criticism of the Polymet permit out of the public record. These examples show how state regulators defer to applicants, while ignoring citizen concerns and our environment.

The following recommendations could mitigate and remediate the ongoing regulatory shortcomings:

- Strengthen adherence to the existing rules that ***prohibit pipelines in wetlands or on steep slopes.*** While this rule is in place, permits were approved anyway. Now these are some of the most common places Waadookawaad Amikwag has documented damages to date.
- Ensure adequate funding to properly enforce permits. The state allowed Enbridge to train and hire Independent Environmental Monitors overseeing the Line 3 construction, a clear conflict of interest, which failed to protect.
- Implement Horizontal Directional Drilling Requirements, similar to those recently implemented as HDD Guideline 1074 in Wisconsin. One critical condition for remediation is required reporting of HDD drilling mud use and reclamation; enabling understanding of mud losses remaining in the land post-project construction.
- Perform fixed-wing thermal flyovers of project areas, before and after, to document and determine hydrologic baselines, risks, and impacts.
- Provide clarity to the public on all open investigations along the Line 3/93 corridor. While laws prevent sharing of investigation details, they do allow agencies to share locations of concern and other data for public understanding and preparedness. As a further enhancement, update the law: require regulators to release information on ongoing investigations of environmental damages.
- Consider minimizing legislative terminology “to the extent practicable”, which provides far too little protection, as clearly demonstrated in the Line 3/93 project. When an applicant cannot meet environmental requirements, the pattern seen in regulatory processes has been to accommodate applicants at the expense of environmental protections, rather than simply denying applications.
- Provide guidelines to agencies for balancing applicant inputs with public/local expert inputs in permit considerations. The current course appears to prioritize applicant wishes over needed protections.
- Require independent experts during agency permitting, as well as inter-agency communications, to bolster any gaps in expertise needed for thorough project application reviews.
- Provide funding to enhance understanding of hydrologic impacts to sensitive environments. These were knowable, yet neglected in much of the Line 3/93 permitting.

Waadookawaad Amikwag

Specific to our requests in a 10/6/2022 draft memorandum of agreement issued to AG Ellison, PUC Chair, and Commissioners of MPCA & DNR, these are additional considerations for implementation within agencies:

- Retain qualified professionals including those certified as American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (asprs.org), Certified Photogrammetrist, and/or Mapping Scientist (Remote Sensing).
  - Commission a non-profit geospatial organization to create a joint, protected, non-proprietary (open source) geospatial aerial image and ground samples data warehouse via a cloud computing for all parties to jointly monitor Minnesota's utility corridors such as Line 3 and to make improved recommendations to the PUC for future utility routes.
- Initiate and complete a joint Tribal/State/University/Federal assessment of the full range of construction impacts to hydrology and ecology of the Line 3 right of way. This technical engineering and scientific analysis would be designed to rapidly provide insights into construction-induced damages to surface waters, groundwater, and ecological function.
  - Include a post-analysis to evaluate the total cost of this project, including the ongoing post-construction remediation.
- Prepare a "rapid response report" to collate the known details of Line 3/93 and use it to define a scope for future approvals.
  - Documentation of uncontrolled release of perennial water systems from artesian groundwater aquifers
  - Frac-outs, lost circulation and permanent mud loss from horizontal directional drilling (HDD)
  - Deep excavations breaching shallow aquitards resulting in emergent groundwater and aquifer breach.
  - Sheet pile installation and removal occurrence causing emergent groundwater from the breach of shallow aquifers
  - Peatland disturbances
  - Wetland and surface water impacts
  - A tabulated analysis of damages, both temporary and permanent, to water dependent ecosystems and their associated sensitive uplands
- Prepare an After the Fact analysis of Line 3 construction damage to identify past deficiencies in design, permitting, construction, inspection, and enforcement across the Headwaters. The report shall make recommendations to refine pre-design/pre-permitting tools to document risks and avoid impacts to hydrologic and ecological systems. Recommendations shall address necessary geotechnical/hydrological investigations, drone imaging and other remote sensing, thermal imaging, water flow and water level measurements.
  - Report investigative results to the public, to the Governor's office and to the Public Utilities Commission.

We thank you for the good Legislative work done along the way, including the report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor recommendations regarding the Public Utilities Commission's Public Participation Process to improve public input to the regulatory process.

Feel free to review our data and evidence at www.WaadookawaadAmikwag.org or at our YouTube channel. Email WaadookawaadAmikwag@gmail.com with any questions or requests for collaboration.

Miigwech for your consideration during the Rise & Repair 2024 Rally Day… and every day.

Our future generations are counting on you.

MINNESOTA NEEDS TO ELECTRIFY OUR SCHOOL BUS FLEET, RIGHT NOW!

MINNESOTA MADE HISTORY BY BEING THE FIRST STATE IN THE MIDWEST TO GET AN ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS BACK IN LAKEVILLE IN 2017, HOWEVER WE HAVE FALLEN BEHIND SINCE.

- Minnesota has over 13,000 school buses in operation
- We only have 12 running electric school buses
- We will be receiving over 20 in the upcoming year through Federal and State funding.
- We still have 12,968 buses left to electrify

This is progress, but as a state **we need to do better** for the sake of our future generations health and climate.

Our students and communities need **YOU to step up, speak up and provide** the necessary leadership to help flip out the entire school bus fleet to electric.

I'd love to meet, reach me at :

or
sonita@mn350.org

Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act
HF3577 (Rep Jordan) / SF3561 (Sen Morrison)

MN ZERO WASTE COALITION

Problematic and unnecessary packaging is filling our landfills, burning in our incinerators, and trashing our recycling system. This packaging adds unnecessary costs to our communities and pollutes our environment. The Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act holds producers responsible for these impacts and drives them towards much needed changes.

PRODUCERS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING TARGETS:

2032 All packaging must be reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

2033

- 15% of materials must be **source reduced**
- 10% of material must transition to a **reuse system**
- 65% of materials must be **recycled or composted**
- All material must have at least **10% recycled content**

CORE COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM:

Prioritizes Waste Reduction: We cannot recycle and compost our way out of this packaging crisis, we must prioritize reduction. The program requires producers to meet targets for source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, and post-consumer recycled content. These targets are enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Drives Packaging Redesign: Packaging producers will be charged based on the amount and type of packaging used. The less packaging a company uses, the less they will pay. There are also financial incentives for companies to reduce unnecessary packaging and use nontoxic, reusable, recyclable and compostable materials.

Creates Equitable & Free Access to Recycling: Recycling a growing financial burden for local governments and individual families. The program will provide free recycling for all Minnesotans, by requiring producers to reimburse local governments for the cost of these programs.

Supports Quality Jobs: The program ensures that priority for service provider contracts is given to Minnesota companies that provide good jobs, strong safety standards, and quality services. Additionally, investments in reuse and recycling infrastructure will create new jobs across our state.

Strengthens the MN Economy: Businesses are struggling to source the metal, paper, plastic, and glass needed to make new packaging and products. Meanwhile, each year Minnesota buries and burns over 1 million tons of recyclables worth an estimated 143 million dollars. By recycling more, we can create a reliable domestic supply of recycled metal, paper, plastic, and glass to make new products. Additionally, the recycled content requirements, provide stability to, traditionally unstable, commodity markets.

A robust program, with strong reduction targets, is an opportunity help support zero waste policies. However, efforts to weaken this bill risks us simply shifting the cost of recycling without ushering in systemic improvements and community benefits.

Questions: Lucy Mullany, Director of Policy & Advocacy, Eureka Recycling, lucym@eurekarecycling.org

Protecting State Pensions: Evaluating Systemic Risks

SF 4859 / HF xxxx: Sustainable Investing Act

Empowering Minnesota's State Board of Investment to evaluate the systemic risks that impact pension holders and taxpayers

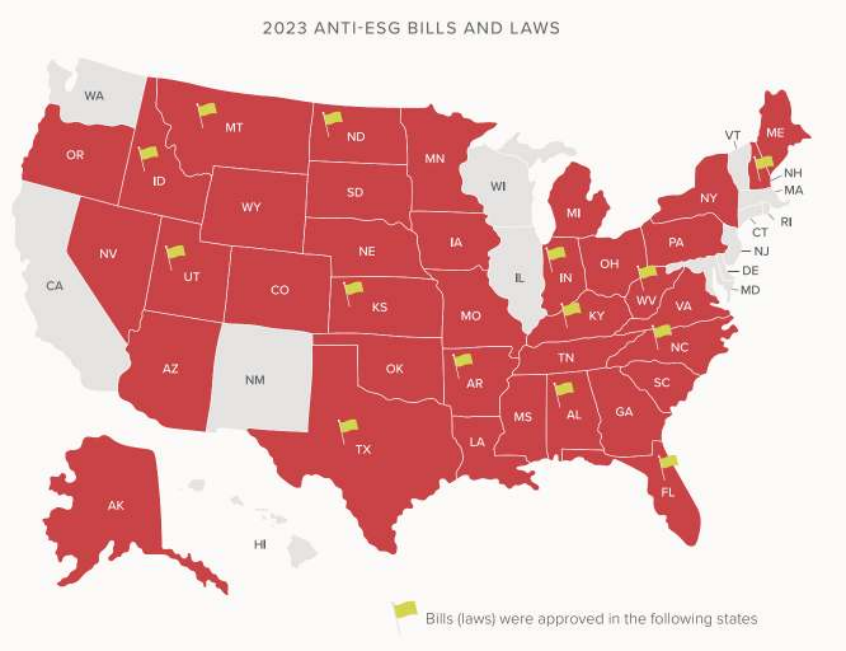
Fossil Fuel Interests Compromising State Pension Boards' Authority to Protect Pension Funds from Risk

Minnesota INTERFAITH POWER&LIGHT

Ever since the Biden administration and federal financial regulators began to recognize that climate change is not just an environmental crisis but a threat to economic and financial stability, the fossil fuel industry has been looking for more ways to rig the rules of the game in its favor.

One new strategy: eliminate a state's ability to consider environmental and sustainability factors when investing its pension funds.

The fossil fuel industry and allied interests have now passed laws in 16 states that PREVENT state boards of investments from considering how the risks of climate change and other Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria are threatening pension returns.



This Anti-ESG Legislation Tracker shows the expanse of efforts to undermine ESG investing state by state:

- 24 laws and 6 resolutions passed in 16 states
- 5 bills introduced in Minnesota
- 167 bills proposed in 37 states

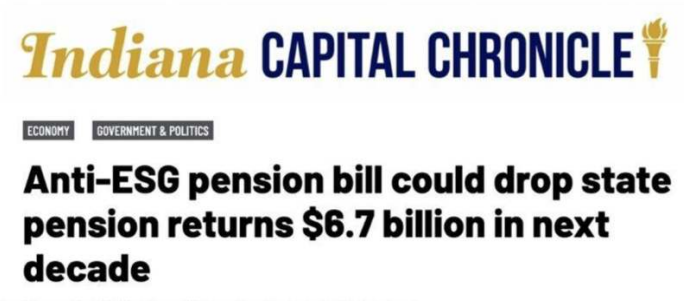
Attacks on ESG risk analysis are

1) raising costs for municipalities and
2) threatening returns for retirees

everywhere they have been adopted.

Ignoring Systemic Risks Jeopardizes Retirees Investments and Increases Costs

The Indiana Capital Chronicle reported on risks to pension holders (February 6, 2023) – the bill passed despite objections from the Chamber of Commerce.



"Safe to say we still oppose H.B. 1008. We'll continue to voice our strong opposition to House members as well as key senators…"

As reported in Axios Dallas (February 22, 2023)

"State of play: Texas' anti-ESG policies are costing taxpayers about $416 million per year in the form of higher interest payments on municipal bonds, per a 2022 paper by Wharton Business School assistant professor Daniel Garrett and Federal Reserve economist Ivan Ivanov."

Minnesota needs to pass legislation to protect pension holders and taxpayers from systemic risks.

Passing a countermeasure that protects Minnesota's pension funds from systemic risks will

- Protect pension holders' retirement returns
- Protect state taxpayers
- Embrace the role it has historically played in passing sound policies that allow its economy to thrive in contrast with many surrounding states.

Sustainable Investing Act: (SF 4859 Senator Pappas / HF XXX Representative Cha)

- Brings Minnesota's approach to systemic risk management into alignment with the federal climate risk supervision framework by requiring the Minnesota State Board of Investment (MSBI) to produce an annual report evaluating how workers' pension funds are at risk from climate change.
- Guards against the possibility that politicians in Minnesota could place workers pension at risk by passing an attack on ESGby codifying factors that fiduciaries in Minnesota must consider when making investment decisions with Minnesota workers' money
- Empowers Minnesota to begin using its institutional investment power toward climate action by aligning MSBI's proxy voting practices with our state's climate targets.

These provisions will have the effect of ensuring that external asset managers do not abandon ESG risk analysis.

Bag the Plastic Bag Ban!

The need to end the use of single-use plastic bags is vital to the long term health of our water and planet. Plastics are made up of roughly 13,000 different chemicals, with 3,200 of those being listed as chemicals of concern. Health impacts from the chemicals in plastic include cardiovascular disease and stroke, infertility, cancer, thyroid problems, obesity, diabetes, and more.

In 2015, the Minneapolis City Council took steps to ban the use of plastic bags at grocery and retail stores in Minneapolis in an effort to reduce plastic pollution. Unfortunately, despite passage of the ordinance in 2016, the legislature took action in 2017 and passed language prohibiting cities from banning the use of plastic/disposable bags. Currently, Minneapolis and Duluth both charge a 5 cent fee for plastic bags within their city limits in an effort to encourage the use of reusable bags.

Local municipalities deserve the right to local control, especially when the decisions in question impact public health and safety and the water we drink. Clean Water Action is working to remove the plastic bag ban preemption in Minnesota statute, which will return local control around this issue back to where it belongs — with each city and town in Minnesota.

Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year, which require 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture. Minnesotans throw away more than 500 tons of plastic bags and packaging every day. The MPCA states that in Minnesota plastic bag recycling is less than 10%. It is estimated that 22 million pounds of plastic pollution enter the Great Lakes annually.

Environmental Impact

- Americans use an average of 365 plastic bags per person per year compared to people in Denmark, who use an average of four plastic bags per year.
- It only takes about 14 plastic bags for the equivalent of the gas required to drive one mile.
- In 2015 about 730,000 tons of plastic bags, sacks and wraps were generated (including PS, PP, HDPE, PVC & LDPE) in the U.S., but more than 87% of those items are never recycled, winding up in landfills and the water.
- It takes 1,000 years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill. Unfortunately, the bags don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.
- The plastic typically used in bottles, bags and food containers contains chemical additives such as endocrine disruptors, which are associated with negative health effects including cancers, birth defects and immune system suppression in humans and wildlife.
- Chemical leachates from plastic bags impair the growth of the world's most important microorganisms, Prochlorococcus, a marine bacterium that provides one tenth of the world's oxygen.
- Trash incinerators, where plastic bags end up pose an environmental threat. Emitted toxics include arsenic, chromium, and particulate matter into nearby communities.
- The Hennepin County Energy Recovery Center (HERC) is an environmental justice tragedy, impacting the community where the majority of residents are people of color, and an area already exposed to a disproportionate level of airborne toxics. Some of those toxics come from burning plastic, according to the Five Cities report, since about 88% of all plastic in Minneapolis ends up in the trash.

Costs of Maintaining the Status Quo

Eureka, a third-party recycling contractor, states that countless hours and an estimated $75,000 per year is spent sorting out and disposing of plastic bags, which can get caught in the facility's sorting axles and even catch fire. Black plastics are not recyclable because laser readers used to sort materials can't determine which type of plastics they are, and they have a lower resale value on the market which end up in landfills and incinerators.

One study estimated the cost of clean-up and landfill at 17 cents per bag. The graphic at right shows how they calculated the cost per bag for the 50 million bags used in that city per year. These costs are similar across the U.S.

Local Control

Local governments are elected officials. Their decisions and the work they do matters to the community that elects them. Taking the power of local control away from municipal governments lessens the voice of those who live in the community.

Join us in reducing plastic waste, protecting our water, and supporting local control across Minnesota. Learn more at cleanwater.org/MNplasticbags.

Sources:

1. https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/population_and_sustainability/sustainability/plastic_bag_facts.html
2. https://sahanjournal.com/climate-environment/plastic-waste-minneapolis/
3. https://www.nrdc.org/stories/do-plastic-bag-bans-work
4. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0095069618305291
5. https://www.startribune.com/state-s-pollution-fighters-hope-bagnado-whips-up-storm-of-consciousness-at-state-fair/322561431/

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Avonna Starck, *State Director*: 612.423.6939 or astarck@cleanwater.org
301 4th Avenue S, Suite 365N, Minneapolis, MN 55415
Tel: (612) 623-3666 • www.cleanwateraction.org/mn
CleanWaterActionMN @CleanWaterMN

CLEAN WATER ACTION | CLEAN WATER FUND

PROVE IT FIRST

COMMON SENSE PROTECTION FOR MINNESOTA

FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS

The Prove It First (SF1416/ HF 1618) bill simply requires that an applicant seeking a permit to open a copper-sulfide mine must prove that such a mine can be operated and closed without causing pollution.

Before they put a shovel into the ground, they need to show Minnesotans an example of a copper-sulfide mine that has operated for at least ten years and has been closed for ten years, without causing pollution.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:

CHRIS KNOPF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATER WILDERNESS
CHRIS@FRIENDS-BWCA.ORG • 651.999.9565

PROVE IT FIRST!

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT PROVE IT FIRST

- Based on a Wisconsin Law that was in place for nearly 20 years
- Protects all of Minnesota's watersheds from this risky type of mining
- Does not affect permits for iron ore or taconite mines
- Copper-sulfide mining has never been done in Minnesota and ranks as the most polluting industry in the United States
- Protects Minnesota taxpayers from being left on the hook for millions of dollars in clean-up and reclamation costs from the pollution produced by these mines
- The proposed sulfide mines, Twin Metals and PolyMet, would be two of the largest carbon producers in Minnesota, with yearly emissions equivalent to supplying energy to 200,000 homes for one year
- Economic analysis out of Harvard University shows that copper-sulfide mining would cause longterm harm to the region's economy, devastating the sustainable wilderness industry that draws visitors from around the world to visit the BWCA and North Shore

FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS

2550 UNIVERSITY AVE. W., SUITE 180S, ST. PAUL, MN 55114

8 E. SHERIDAN ST., ELY, MN 55731

WWW.FRIENDS-BWCA.ORG

RIGHTS OF MANOOMIN/PSIN

A resolution that would recognize the rights of wild rice or manoomin/psin to exist and flourish

- **Wild rice or manoomin/psin is the state grain.**
- **Manoomin/Psin is central to Anishinaabeg and Dakota culture and traditions. Manoomin/Psin is no longer able to thrive in Southern Minnesota as it used to, this is mainly due to human activities.**
- **Manoomin/Psin is central to tribal economies and plays a huge role in the state economy.**
- **Manoomin/Psin is considered a "superfood" that requires no pesticides or fertilizers to grow!**
- **More than 17 species of wildlife listed in the MNDNR's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy as "species of greatest conservation need" use wild rice lakes as habitat for reproduction or foraging.**
- **According to the Governor's wild rice task force, historical data shows wild rice has decreased in abundance in Minnesota.**

Now is the time to protect manoomin/psin

Manoomin/Psin faces many threats from climate change, invasive species, and pollution. Proposed mines like Polymet and Talon threaten Manoomin/Psin. Sulfates, a by-product of these proposed mines, have been linked to the decline of wild rice.

How can a Rights of Manoomin/Psin resolution help?

This approach shifts the legal framework from viewing nature as property to recognizing its rights to exist, thrive, and regenerate.

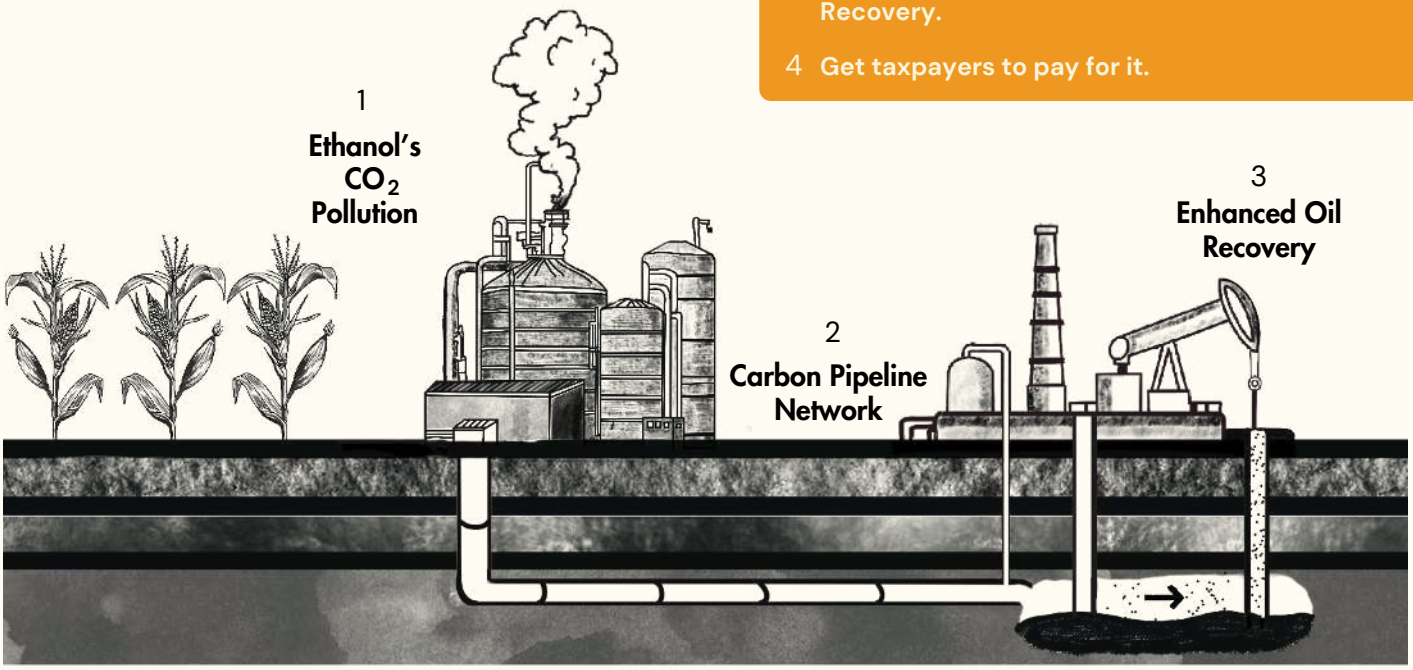
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
that Manoomin/Psin is sacred and central to the culture and health of Indigenous Peoples in Minnesota and critical to the health and identity of all Minnesota citizens and ecosystems.

Fossil Fuel's Quiet Business Model

THE MORE YOU BURN THE MORE YOU EARN

THE BUSINESS MODEL:

1. Capture CO_2 from ethanol production.
2. Build a network of pipelines through the midwest to ferry the CO_2 through the ground.
3. Don't tell people you will inevitably inject that CO_2 into low-producing oil wells to push out more oil -- something called Enhanced Oil Recovery.
4. Get taxpayers to pay for it.



4 Policies supporting this business model

Federal Level - 45Q Tax Credit

Section 45Q provides a tax credit for capture and storage of CO_2 that would otherwise be emitted.
Geologically sequestered: $85/ton
Geologically sequestered w/ EOR: $60/ton

State Level - LCFS

A Low Carbon Fuel Standard assigns transportation fuels a CI (Carbon Intensity) score: Higher CI-scored fuels accrue deficits that fund credits for lower CI-scored fuels. One way to lower a CI score is to capture CO_2 pollution and move it by pipeline for "storage" or EOR.

Fossil Fuel's Quiet Business Model Impacts our Water and Climate

Ethanol

- 5% of MN's total surface area is dedicated to ethanol production
- Industrial farming practices - CAFOs and row crops - have led to rising nitrate levels in drinking water across the state
- Emissions from ethanol are likely up to 24% worse than gasoline
- CO_2 pollution from ethanol production is 99% pure - perfect for EOR

Pipelines

- Building pipelines is inherently destructive to aquifers, surface water, trees, land, and family farmers.
- CI (carbon intensity) scores often fail to incorporate the emissions from EOR.
- 2000+ miles of Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) pipelines are proposed across the midwest, including in Minnesota.
- Once in operation, leaks and exposions present a constant danger to people and ecosystems

Enhanced Oil Recovery

- Oil companies are desperate for CO_2 to inject into the ground to get more oil out of their marginally producing wells.
- 13 out of 15 Carbon Capture facilities are for Enhanced Oil Recovery.
- Both EOR and sequestration processes leak CO_2 into the atmosphere, adding to the lifetime emissions of these methods

The Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition is an alliance of Minnesota-based environmental organizations, environmental justice advocates, sustainable waste service providers, and community members committed to advancing a future for Minnesota without waste.

MN ZERO WASTE COALITION

The Minnesota legislature must take action to address our growing waste crisis. We cannot continue business as usual – increasing our waste each year, burying and burning most of that waste, and polluting our environment and harming the health of community members. With equitable zero-waste solutions, more people will have access to clean air, fresh water, green jobs, and healthier neighborhoods.

Zero Waste 2024 Legislative Priorities

Electronics Recycling (HF3566 / SF3940): Electronic waste is a growing problem – currently making up 70% of lead pollution from our landfills. This bill provides free collection of all electronics for Minnesotans and provides much needed incentives that will increase the State's diversion rates.

Food Waste Diversion: We support policies that ban organic food waste from landfills and incinerators while investing in programs that reduce food waste, educate and assist consumers, address food insecurity, and cultivate food waste recycling infrastructure like composting.

Fighting False Solutions: As we work to build a zero waste economy, there will be voices that are pushing false solutions. These solutions might appear appealing or well-intentioned but lack the necessary depth, sustainability, or efficacy in dealing with our challenges. We oppose the state supporting carbon capture as a solution to climate change (HF342 / SF298).

Packaging Waste & Cost Reduction Act (HF3577 / SF3561): Problematic and unnecessary packaging that is polluting our environment and adding significant costs to communities. This bill holds producers responsible and drives them towards much needed changes. The program requires producers to meet targets for source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, and post-consumer recycled content.

Removal of the Plastic Bag Preemption (HF3345 / SF3677): In 2017 the Minnesota legislature passed a preemption law banning local plastic bag bans. This legislation would remove that preemption and allow local communities to decide if and how they should address the proliferation of plastic bags.

Right-to-Repair (HF4418 / SF4407): If you own something, you should be able to fix it on your own or decide which repair clinic to use. This bill expands Minnesota's current "right-to-repair" law to include additional equipment.

Let's connect!
@mn4zerowaste