

DNR STATEWIDE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Robert E. Olsen – Committee Chair

P.O. Box 66

Ivanhoe, MN 56142

March 20, 2014

Rep. Alice Hausman
Chair
House Capital Investment Committee
453 SOB
St. Paul, MN 55101

Senator Leroy Stumpf
Chair
Senate Capital Investment Committee
Room 122
State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chair Hausman and Stumpf:

The statewide DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee, formed in December of 2012, is extremely supportive of increased state funding to continue the battle against aquatic invasive species including zebra mussels and Asian Carp.

In our studies to date, we have found that the research facilities at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus are imperative in the search for remedies, solutions, and or control methods in our efforts to stop or slow the spread of dangerous invasive invaders.

The work that Dr. Sorenson has begun at the University is impressive and a great start to the research side of the equation. However, as the article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on Sunday, March 16, 2014 points out the research lab is in sole need of repair and expansion if the work of Dr. Sorenson and others is going to be able to contribute to the critical research needed to combat AIS.

We encourage the bonding committees to include the \$6 million requested to upgrade the facilities and better us in the research work that so earnestly needs to be done.

Thank you for your work on the bonding bill and for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Olsen
Chair