

Game and Fish Fund Budgetary Oversight Committee

—Authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.055, subd. 4b—

John Hunt, BOC Chair

Fisheries Oversight Committee representatives

John Schneider, Chair
Lance Frank
John Lenczewski
Peter Perovich
George Selcke

Wildlife Oversight Committee representatives

Rob Theobald, Chair
Bill Faber
Chuck Kartak
Deb Luzinski
Steve Okins

April 2, 2012

Mr. Tom Landwehr, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources
Committee
Capitol Building, Room 303
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155-1606

Senator Linda Higgins
State Office Building, Room 113
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Senator Benjamin Kruse
Capitol Building, Room 124
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Senator Tom Bakk
State Office Building, Room 147
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Representative Denny McNamara
Chair, House Environment, Energy and Natural
Resources Committee
State Office Building, Room 375
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Representative Jean Wagenius
State Office Building, Room 251
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Representative Tim O'Driscoll
State Office Building, Room 369
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Representative Kurt Zellars
State Office Building, Room 463
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Game and Fish Fund Budgetary Oversight Committee (BOC), I am sending you this letter to express the BOC's concern regarding current legislative efforts to create a new oversight body to manage the state's School Trust lands.

As the BOC stated in its October 14, 2011, report to you on FY10 Game and Fish Fund expenditures, we believe that creation of a new, state-level agency or administrative board will complicate natural resource management on both School Trust lands and surrounding parcels owned by federal, state, and local units of government. In addition, more intensive land management of these parcels in the name of increased revenues could threaten the old-growth forests and other communities of biological significance that are

found on some School Trust lands. Finally, the development of an alternate fee-based system to charge for recreational use of School Trust lands has the potential to reduce revenues to an already imperiled Game and Fish Fund.

We do understand, however, the issues related to School Trust lands that are located within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and support ongoing efforts to reach agreement with the federal government for an equitable land sale, exchange or combination of the two approaches.

Feel free to contact me at 763-242-2196 if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "H".

John Hunt
Chair, Game and Fish Fund Budgetary Oversight Committee