

# Game and Fish Fund Budgetary Oversight Committee

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

John Hunt, BOC Chair

## *Fisheries Oversight Committee representatives*

Peter Perovich, Chair  
John Christian  
Jeff Johnson  
John Lenczewski  
George Selcke

## *Wildlife Oversight Committee representatives*

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

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April 26, 2013

Senator John Marty  
Chair, Environment and Energy Committee  
Capitol Building, Room 303  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155-1606

Senator David M. Brown  
Ranking Minority Member, Environment and Energy  
Committee  
State Office Building, Room 109  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155-1206

Senator David Tomassoni  
Chair, Environment, Economic Development, and  
Agriculture Finance Division  
Capitol Building, Room 317  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155-1606

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen  
Ranking Minority Member, Environment, Economic  
Development, and Agriculture Finance Division  
State Office Building, Room 143  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155-1206

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

Representative David Dill  
Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Policy  
Committee  
State Office Building, Room 571  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155

Representative Tom Hackbarth  
Ranking Minority Member, Environment and Natural  
Resources Policy Committee  
State Office Building, Room 309  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155

Representative Jean Wagenius  
Chair, Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture  
Finance Committee  
State Office Building, Room 449  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155

Representative Denny McNamara  
Ranking Minority Member, Environment, Natural  
Resources, and Agriculture Finance Committee  
State Office Building, Room 359  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155

Gentlepersons:

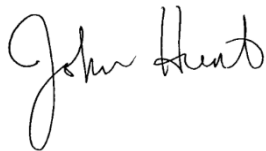
On behalf of the Game and Fish Fund Budgetary Oversight Committee (BOC) established under Minn. Stat. Sec. 97A.055, Subd. 4b, I am sending you this letter to express the BOC's concern regarding the current language contained in the Senate version of HF0976. The language as

currently drafted does not reflect the Game and Fish Initiative submitted by Governor Dayton. The current language in the bill appropriates only \$2 million from the Game and Fish Fund to the agency for enhanced fish and wildlife management and enforcement, far below the \$4 million that the Governor included in his budget request.

As part of our statutory responsibility to review and report annually on revenues and expenditures from the Game and Fish Fund, the BOC played a leading role in recent years in identifying the need to increase hunting and fishing license revenues to support ongoing management of Minnesota's fish and wildlife populations and their respective habitats. In conjunction with individual citizens, local sportsmen's clubs, and statewide conservation organizations, we supported 2012 legislation that revised the license fee structure in a way that both increased revenues into the Game and Fish Fund without unreasonable impact to hunters and anglers and stabilized the near-term projections of the Fund's solvency. With the passage of the fee increases, the BOC (and likely the average hunter and angler) understood that the DNR would then begin crafting upcoming biennial budgets that reflected the increased revenues and expenditures needed to maintain, and in some cases restore, programs and budgets designed to support and enhance Minnesotans' hunting and angling activities.

To have increased revenues coming into the Game and Fish Fund but then not provide the accompanying appropriations to enable the DNR to spend those funds diminishes the ability of the DNR to meet the objectives of its fish and wildlife programs, and does not meet the expectations of the hunters and anglers that supported the license fee increases. The BOC therefore urges the House and Senate conferees to adopt the appropriations from the Game and Fish Fund provided for in in the House version of HF0976 to correspond to the levels requested by the Governor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John E. Hunt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

John E. Hunt  
Chair, Game and Fish Fund Budgetary Oversight Committee  
Big Lake, MN