

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TACKLING THE IMPORTANT ISSUES

Conservation Minnesota and members like you have now spent a full year advocating for important conservation issues without setting foot in the Capitol. This legislative session we're tackling ambitious priorities to ensure all Minnesotans have clean air and water and access to safe and enjoyable lands. Here are some of our priorities:



Paul Austin
Executive Director

Safe drinking water for all

In the land of 10,000 lakes, we should all have access to safe drinking water, but the water supply for several Minnesota communities has been contaminated by toxic PFAS chemicals. PFAS are associated with numerous health risks and require expensive clean-up for decades. We're working on bills to address PFAS contamination including removing these "forever chemicals" from food packaging.

Protecting air quality & tackling climate change

We're supporting several clean energy bills designed to put Minnesota on a path to 100% clean energy while maintaining reliable and affordable electricity. We're also working to reduce carbon emissions in the transportation sector by supporting low carbon fuels, the Clean Cars Rule and incentives for electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

Protecting funds dedicated for conservation

We continue working to ensure that Clean Water, Land, & Legacy dollars and other dedicated conservation funds are used as voters intended. Projects funded through these sources have helped Minnesotans have more places to get outdoors. The need for outdoor spaces has been more apparent and appreciated than ever this past year.

Share your support of these important initiatives with your legislators at: conservationminnesota.org/take-action

The work of Conservation Minnesota is guided by your values and priorities. We listen to Minnesotans and focus on solving the conservation problems that matter most to you.

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**CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA**



SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

LIVING UP TO SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



Over the years, we have heard from thousands of Minnesotans about which conservation issues are most important. And every year, our legislative work with lawmakers, partners, and our members is informed by what we have learned.

Throughout our state, people feel a collective responsibility to ensure **every community has clean drinking water, clean air, and safe access to the outdoor spaces** and nature experiences that make life here unique. But we have not yet lived up to that responsibility.

Our daily work is a constant reminder that the **negative impacts from air pollution, toxic chemicals, and our changing climate are not the same everywhere—more damage is felt by communities that historically had less wealth and influence.** More landfills and highways encroach on and pollute these communities. There are often fewer parks and limited access to nature. And lead pipes bring contaminated drinking water, and health risks, into many older homes and neighborhoods.

Solving these problems, and living up to our shared responsibility,

requires investment. Conservation Minnesota is dedicated to addressing these inequities throughout the state, and supporting state and local policies that deliver equitable solutions for every community. This commitment has influenced the selection of **our 2021 legislative priorities which include clean energy, safe drinking water, and protecting funds dedicated for conservation.**



CITIES SUPPORTING CLEAN CARS MN

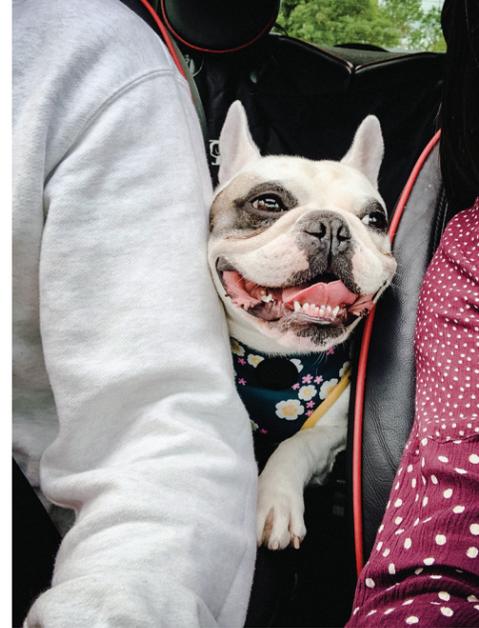
Conservation Minnesota builds strong and meaningful relationships in communities throughout the state and brings statewide initiatives and legislative priorities to the local level. Recently **our field staff worked with select cities to secure their support for Clean Cars Minnesota**, a set of vehicle emission standards designed to help clean up our air and bring more electric vehicles to Minnesota.

Edina, Mahtomedi, and Northfield declared their support for clean cars and their desire to address climate change. We applaud the dedication of city officials and staff for their leadership.

OUR SPRING MEMBER DRIVE

Conservation Minnesota is working to help Minnesotans have more places to get outdoors and enjoy the benefits of clean air, clean water, and open space no matter the season. Your membership makes this work possible. Make your donation go further—**through April 15th your membership will be triple matched.** Memberships start at \$25.

Do more by becoming a sustaining donor. Consistent revenue allows us to dedicate our time to working on the issues that are most important to you. Choose your one time or recurring donation option online at: conservationminnesota.org/membership.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG!



JOIN OUR BOARD!

We are actively seeking applicants from non-traditional backgrounds as part of our commitment toward building an inclusive workplace and environmental movement. We are in search of people with integrity, credibility, and a passion for conservation to join us as board members and a Board Treasurer.

To learn more and nominate yourself or someone you know, visit: conservationminnesota.org/board. Inquire by May 1.

