



May 19, 2011

## **Minnesota Environmental Partnership Stands With Dayton on Environmental Finance Bill Veto**

Members of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, the statewide coalition of more than 80 Minnesota conservation and environmental nonprofit organizations, today sent a letter to Governor Mark Dayton asking for his veto of H.F. 1010, which the Minnesota Senate passed this afternoon, sending it to Governor Mark Dayton. (View the letter here: <http://bit.ly/HF1010Veto>)

Steve Morse, executive director of MEP, issued the following statement regarding H.F. 1010:

“Today, we are asking Governor Dayton to veto H.F. 1010, the Omnibus Environment Finance Bill, to protect our water and ensure that the intent of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Constitutional Amendment is upheld as Minnesota voters expect.

“This bill includes draconian general fund cuts of 67 percent to Minnesota’s Pollution Control Agency and 22 percent to the Department of Natural Resources – at the same time when overall general fund expenditures are increasing by double digit percentages.

“These agencies oversee and enforce the laws that protect our water. Since 40 percent of our state’s lakes, rivers and streams fail to meet basic water standards and flooding seems to be an ever greater challenge, Minnesota cannot afford to put our lakes, rivers, and streams at risk by so drastically cutting back on these agencies.

“These cuts fail to maintain the traditional sources of funding as required in our Constitution with the passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, and lays the foundation for Legacy Amendment dollars to be “used as a substitute” for traditional sources of funding when those funds are appropriated.

“Furthermore, this bill includes more than 10 troubling policy provisions that will subvert state agency authority and weaken existing laws that protect our air and water.

“We seek Governor Dayton’s veto of H.F. 1010 because it includes offensive policy provisions – policy provisions that the Governor specifically required be omitted from finance bills – and does not maintain the traditional share of the state general fund to protect our water and Minnesota’s Great Outdoors.”

*Minnesota Environmental Partnership is a statewide coalition of more than 80 nonprofit conservation and environmental organizations, representing more than 500,000 Minnesotans. Formed in 1998, MEP works with its member organizations to protect and restore Minnesota’s lakes, rivers, streams, forests, wildlife habitat and natural areas.*

###