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## NEWS RELEASE

### **“Stop the Assault on Minnesota’s Great Outdoors and Clean Energy Future”**

*Citizens and conservation leaders flag more than 40 bills as harmful to Minnesota’s land, air and water*

**SAINT PAUL, MN (MAY 9, 2011)** – Standing before a laundry rack displaying more than 40 legislative bills, leaders of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership and concerned citizens today called for an end to the assault on Minnesota’s Great Outdoors and Clean Energy Future.

“It’s time to air the dirty laundry of this year’s legislative session,” said Steve Morse, executive director of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP). “We have witnessed an unprecedented number of bills pass committees this year that are an attack on Minnesota’s lakes, rivers and streams, natural areas and wildlife habitat.”

Morse and citizens from Hastings, Champlin and Todd County, Minn., distributed a list of Minnesota House and Senate bills, saying the proposed laws will unravel Minnesota’s environmental protections. The bills included threats to Minnesota’s wild rice, Lake Pepin, Mississippi River, and renewable energy future, including wind and solar power. (See separate handout for list of bills.)

“These bills threaten everything from Minnesota citizens’ right to petition against polluting developments to shrinking the wetlands that help keep our water clean,” Morse said. “In addition, energy bills have been set in motion that would reverse our progress for a Clean Energy Future, including encouraging more dirty coal electricity production.”

At Monday’s news conference, Morse was joined by:

- Lynn Moratzka, former city council member from Hastings, Minn., and board member for Friends of the Mississippi River, who expressed concern over legislation that would increase pollution flowing into Lake Pepin.
- Dan Williams and Rebecca Lundberg, owners of Powerfully Green, a solar installation company, based in Champlin, Minn., who talked about the importance of creating more clean energy jobs in Minnesota to maintain Minnesota’s energy independence.
- Alan Perish, retired dairy farmer from Todd County, Minn., northwest of St. Cloud, and steering committee member for Land Stewardship Project, who spoke against changes that would limit citizens’ rights to locally control environmentally risky developments proposed in their communities.

Morse concluded the news conference by urging Minnesota lawmakers to focus on a fair solution to balancing the state budget deficit and “stop the unraveling of Minnesota’s Great Outdoors legacy.”

For more information on MEP’s priority issues, go to [www.Protect.MN](http://www.Protect.MN) or [www.MEPartnership.org](http://www.MEPartnership.org).

*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.*

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