

July 14, 2011

Honorable Governor Dayton and Commissioner Landwehr,

This is not a request for money or re-activation of another Minnesota government program. Instead, this is a request to let grass-roots efforts led by concerned citizens conduct pilot projects to protect our waters from zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.

There is a devastating convergence happening with the spreading of zebra mussels and the lack of sufficient state funds and authority to protect our water. Coupling this with the current state government shutdown leaves our water more poorly protected than before.

Many lake and river associations are eager to protect one of our most precious natural resources - but they are stopped by cities, counties and watershed districts that are wary of the DNR.

Our request is simple. Let the pilot programs begin now, while there is still time to protect our water during the busiest usage periods of the year. Give permission for pilot programs to move forward where there is full support from a governmental body such as the affected city, county or watershed district. Every pilot project will willingly share their learnings over the fall and winter to help the DNR develop a stronger protection program for the future.

Our state water resources are precious, and we are trying to protect our waters from the undesirable effects of zebra mussels and other invasive species. We can and must do more. Our future experiences on the water depend on it.

Other parts of the country are using much more aggressive control approaches than Minnesota to protect their lakes and rivers. They have come to grips with the realities that education and limited inspections are insufficient to protect these precious natural resources.

It is time for Minnesota to get serious about protecting our waters from zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species. By starting now, we can learn to create better programs for the future.

Please act now to put your support and permission behind these grass-roots efforts, before it is too late.

Sincerely,

City of Shorewood
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Minnesota Waters
Association of Medicine Lake Area Citizens
Christmas Lake Homeowners Association

Gleason Lake Improvement Association
Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association
Lotus Lake Clean Water Organization
Lotus Lake Homeowners Association

Please note: This letter is being copied to a variety a media outlets in the Twin Cities area to raise awareness of this critical issue.