



Monday, April 23rd, 2018

Dear Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

On behalf of thousands of Americans for Prosperity-Minnesota activists across the state, I urge you to support the passage of HF 3280, a common-sense reform which would reset the process to replace the outdated and never-enforced sulfate standard. **Americans for Prosperity – Minnesota will be including this as a “Key Vote” and will score the results in our end-of-session Legislative Scorecard.**

This bill is unfortunately necessary because the ideological overreach of unaccountable bureaucrats has created an unworkable proposed new sulfate standard twice rejected by the courts that would imperil the prosperity and development of our communities and vital industries by imposing unbearable costs without any tangible benefits.

As Minnesotans we all deeply care about our lakes, environment, heritage, and unique crops such as wild rice, and we believe that they deserve the utmost protection to preserve them for future generations. A sustainable, stable, and predictable regulatory framework is critical to both protecting the environment and balancing the needs of communities, business, and industries that coexist throughout our state.

The false dichotomy between economic growth and environmental stewardship is dishonest and does little service to our state. Business and the environment can both thrive side by side. The pretense that this is a zero-sum relationship only produces heavy handed and costly outcomes (like the proposed sulfate standards) that cannot exist when confronted by reality.

Without this bill, communities and industries in northern Minnesota will face billions of dollars in costs to update wastewater treatment facilities to comply with a standard that may not even help protect wild rice. In fact, the science behind the standard predicts the wrong result nearly 1 in 5 times. The state cannot afford that type of inaccuracy and uncertainty. That money could be better invested in creating jobs and developing new opportunities for Northern Minnesota, instead of complying with well-intentioned but devastatingly out-of-touch environmental standards.

That being said, this bill should not be misinterpreted solely as an “Iron Range issue”. Passage of HF3280 will protect the legitimate interests of constituents across the state by ensuring that no arbitrary and unfeasible requirements are imposed on job creators or on the livelihoods of thousands of families - no matter where in Minnesota they live.

We respectfully ask you to vote in favor of this common-sense proposal and thank you for your attention to this issue. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jason Flohrs
State Director - Minnesota
Americans for Prosperity

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.