



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

# State of Minnesota Legislative Scorecard

**85TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION (2007-2008)**



## The Sierra Club's North Star Chapter

The Sierra Club's *North Star Chapter* represents the organization's 24,000 members in Minnesota and has worked on state environmental protection issues since its inception in 1968. The chapter hired Minnesota's first professional state environmental lobbyist in 1973, and has maintained a professional presence at the state capitol for the past 33 years. Today, the Sierra Club employs thirteen staff in Minnesota who work with volunteer leaders to represent the chapter's legislative agenda. Current priority conservation efforts for the North Star Chapter include Clean Air and Renewable Energy, Clean Water, Forest & Wildlands Protection, Sprawl & Land Use, and Mining without Harm.

In addition to state legislative lobbying, the North Star Chapter conducts a wide array of activities that engage members and the general public in efforts to explore, enjoy and protect our shared environment; including outdoor hikes, service activities, community forums, research efforts, litigation, and more. In 2006 and 2007, more than 2,000 Minnesotans volunteered their time with the Sierra Club.

Named "the most influential environmental organization" in an Aspen Institute poll, the **Sierra Club** gives the public the information and the means to make their voices heard. As the world's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization, the Club's 750,000 members in 65 chapters and over 400 local groups nationwide possess the unique ability to empower people and influence public policy through community activism, public education, outreach and litigation.

## About the Scorecard

The purpose of the Sierra Club's legislative scorecard is to assist the public in selecting their state legislators. The scored votes reflect the broad range of interests of Sierra Club volunteer committees and campaigns, and were chosen for their impact on Minnesota's environment and natural resources. The public should be aware that legislative scores are only one factor in choosing legislators who will work to protect Minnesota's environment. Other factors, such as bills authored, committee leadership, service on environment caucuses, and performance in floor debates contribute to a legislator's "environmental record." For more information about your legislator's environmental record, please contact the Sierra Club's North Star Chapter.

## Editors and Photo Credits

Chief Editor: Michelle Rosier, Government Relations Coordinator

Layout and editing: Tuulikki Tammi, volunteer

Contributors: Brian Scott Pasko, Katherine Moeller

Photos: Front cover: Wind turbine at Morris College Campus

At left: A pine and water at the Bass Lakes Trail in MN



# Table of Contents

<b>Scorecard Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
Average Scores	
Leadership Scores	
Committee Leadership	
Committee Averages	
<b>Senate Vote Descriptions</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Senate Scores</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>House Vote Descriptions</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>House Scores</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Legislative Review</b>	<b>22</b>
2007 Legislative session: Priority Legislation	
Additional 2007 Environmental Issues	
2008 Legislative Session: Priority Legislation	
Defensive Lobbying	
Additional 2008 Environmental Issues	
The Tools We Used	
The Future of Minnesota's Environment	
<b>Map of 2007-2008 House Scores</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Members of the Minnesota Legislature</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Legislative Committees</b>	<b>30</b>

## Contact your legislators

### Who is your Legislator?

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/Districtfinder.asp>

### Call your Legislators:

Senate: (651) 296-0504 or 1-888-234-1112

House: (651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

### E-mail your state Senator:

<http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/info/alpha.htm>

### E-mail your state Representatives:

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/housemembers.asp>

### Mailing Address for state Senators:

Senator [Insert Senator's Name]  
75 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

### Mailing Address for state Representatives:

Representative [Insert Representative's Name]  
50 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

## For more information:

Sierra Club North Star Chapter  
2327 East Franklin Avenue #1  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406  
Phone: 612-659-9124  
Fax: 612-659-9129  
[www.northstar.sierraclub.org](http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org)

## Executive Committee

Sharon Stephens (Chair)  
Karen Harder (Vice-Chair)  
Mat Hollinshead (Treasurer)  
Christopher Childs (Conservation Chair)  
Russ Adams  
Lori Andresen  
Luther Dale  
Kirstin Gast  
Marcia Hinitz  
John Hottinger  
Don Janes  
Irene Jones  
Steve Kelley  
Betsy Perkins  
Jim Rickard  
Gail Rogne  
Joe Waltz

## Staff

Margaret Levin (State Director)  
Vicki Munson (Chapter Coordinator)  
Joshua Houdek (Land use & Transportation Organizer)  
Cesia Kearns (Clean Air Organizer)  
Michelle Rosier (Government Relations Coordinator)  
Joshua Low (Blue/Green Organizer)  
Stacy Boots (Blue/Green Organizer)  
Stacey Kawakami (Development and Communications Coordinator)  
Karen Monahan (Environmental Justice Organizer)  
Roger Moore (Conservation Organizer)  
Owen Duckworth (Conservation Organizer)  
Heather Cusick (Senior Regional Representative)  
Scott Elkins (Director of Chapter Coordination)



# SCORECARD SUMMARY

## AVERAGE SCORES

	House	Senate		House	Senate
<b>Statewide Average Score</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>Urban Districts—Average Score</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>
Statewide Median Score	89%	88%	Urban Districts—Median Score	100%	100%
Statewide Maximum Score	100%	100%	Urban Districts—Maximum Score	100%	100%
Statewide Minimum Score	0%	13%	Urban Districts—Minimum Score	88%	88%
<b>DFL Average Score</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>Suburban Districts—Average Score</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>73%</b>
DFL Median Score	95%	100%	Suburban Districts—Median Score	90%	88%
DFL Maximum Score	100%	100%	Suburban Districts—Maximum Score	100%	100%
DFL Minimum Score	65%	63%	Suburban Districts—Minimum Score	0%	13%
<b>Republican Average Score</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>Greater Minnesota Districts—Average Score</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>77%</b>
Republican Median Score	20%	50%	Greater Minnesota Districts—Median Score	75%	86%
Republican Maximum Score	82%	83%	Greater Minnesota Districts—Maximum Score	100%	100%
Republican Minimum Score	0%	13%	Greater Minnesota Districts—Minimum Score	0%	13%

**Urban Districts:** All districts that intersect or are within the Minneapolis and St. Paul Metropolitan City Boundaries

**Suburban Districts:** All districts that intersect or are within the seven-county metropolitan area, except for those that intersect or are within the city boundaries of Minneapolis or St. Paul

**Greater Minnesota Districts:** All districts that intersect or are within a county outside of the seven-county metropolitan area.

## LEADERSHIP SCORES

	Senate DFL (Majority)	Senate Republican	House DFL (Majority)	House Republican
<b>Leadership Average</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Senate/House Average</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>23%</b>
Leadership Median	88%	63%	100%	14%
Senate/House Median	100%	50%	95%	20%
Leadership Maximum	100%	83%	100%	55%
Senate/House Maximum	100%	83%	100%	82%
Leadership Minimum	86%	13%	89%	0%
Senate/House Minimum	63%	13%	65%	0%

\*Leadership includes leaders, assistant leaders, whips, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House.

## COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Senate Committees	DFL Chair	Score	Republican Lead	Score
Agriculture and Veterans Committee	Vickerman	88%	Dille	71%
Business, Industry and Jobs Committee	Metzen	88%	Michel	71%
Environment & Natural Resources Committee	Chaudhary	80%	Pariseau	43%
Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Budget Division	Anderson	100%	Frederickson	83%
Taxes Committee	Bakk	86%	Ortman	33%
Transportation Budget and Policy Division Committee	Murphy	100%	Jungbauer	38%

House Committees	DFL Chair	Score	Republican Lead	Score
Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veteran Affairs Committee	Otreba	75%	Urdahl	20%
Commerce and Labor Committee	Atkins	90%	Zellers	0%
Environment & Natural Resources Committee	Eken	90%	Hackbarth	5%
Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division Committee	Wagenius	100%	Ozment	65%
Taxes Committee	Lenzowski	100%	Simpson	15%
Transportation Finance Division Committee	Lieder	90%	Magnus	20%

\*Scores listed are based on floor votes. These committees hear a majority of the environmental bills proposed during a session and play a significant role in defining the legislation that is voted on by the entire legislature.

## COMMITTEE AVERAGES

	House Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veteran Affairs		Senate Agriculture and Veterans		House Commerce and Labor		Senate Business, Industry and Jobs		House Environment and Natural Resources		Senate Environment and Natural Resources		House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division		Senate Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Budget Division		House Taxes		Senate Taxes		House Transportation Finance Division		Senate Transportation Budget and Policy Division	
<b>Committee Average</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>71%</b>			<b>71%</b>	<b>76%</b>			<b>76%</b>	<b>78%</b>			<b>74%</b>	<b>79%</b>			<b>66%</b>	<b>79%</b>			<b>74%</b>	<b>80%</b>		
Committee Median	80%	80%			90%	86%			93%	86%			90%	86%			75%	88%			93%	88%		
Committee Maximum	100%	100%			100%	100%			100%	100%			100%	100%			100%	100%			100%	100%		
Committee Minimum	0%	13%			0%	38%			5%	13%			5%	13%			0%	33%			0%	33%		
<b>DFL Average</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>88%</b>			<b>96%</b>	<b>89%</b>			<b>92%</b>	<b>92%</b>			<b>92%</b>	<b>93%</b>			<b>89%</b>	<b>92%</b>			<b>94%</b>	<b>94%</b>		
DFL Median	90%	88%			100%	88%			98%	88%			98%	94%			95%	100%			95%	100%		
DFL Maximum	100%	100%			100%	100%			100%	100%			100%	100%			100%	100%			100%	100%		
DFL Minimum	75%	63%			85%	63%			65%	80%			65%	80%			65%	63%			70%	63%		
<b>Republican Average</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>46%</b>			<b>24%</b>	<b>54%</b>			<b>43%</b>	<b>52%</b>			<b>38%</b>	<b>53%</b>			<b>23%</b>	<b>49%</b>			<b>25%</b>	<b>48%</b>		
Republican Median	5%	57%			26%	57%			45%	50%			21%	57%			22%	50%			21%	44%		
Republican Maximum	30%	71%			50%	71%			80%	83%			80%	83%			75%	63%			75%	63%		
Republican Minimum	0%	13%			0%	38%			5%	13%			5%	13%			0%	33%			0%	33%		

\*See pages 28-29 for complete membership lists of the selected committees. Ex officio members are included in the score.

# SENATE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

## 1. Renewable Energy Standard

Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES) leads the nation! Senator Ellen Anderson carried the RES bill which increased Minnesota's commitment to renewable energy sources to 25% by 2025. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 63-3. (SF4, 2/8/07)

## 2. Global Warming Mitigation Act

On the last day of the 2007 session, the Minnesota legislature passed the Global Warming Mitigation Act which set the goals of reducing global warming pollution by 15% (of 2005 emissions) in 2015, 30% in 2025, and 80% by 2050. In addition, utilities must strive to achieve energy efficiency/conservation for 1.5% of annual retail natural gas and electricity sales. The compromise in this bill exempted Mesaba Nugget, Northshore Steel and Big Stone II from the provision that does not al-

low long-term increased global warming pollution. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 59-5. (SF 145, 5/20/2007)

## 3. Great Lakes Compact

Minnesota is one of the eight states and two Canadian provinces that border the Great Lakes. In 2007, Minnesota became the first to ratify a compact regarding water protection in the Great Lakes. Once all respective governments ratify the covenant, the bill will provide a water management strategy to help protect the lakes' natural water. This bill was carried by Representative Thomas Huntley in the House of Representatives. A vote in the affirmative was the vote supported by the Sierra Club. In the Senate, the bill passed 57-3. (HF 110, 2/15/2007)

## 4. Mercury Products Phase Out

During the 2007 session, Senator John Marty carried this bill which phases out products that contain mercury, a neurotoxin that can impair brain development in newborn children, and promotes the use of safer alternatives. The bill also increases warnings and labeling for products containing mercury and educates the public on the dangers of this toxin and how best to dispose products containing mercury. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 59-5. (SF 1085 4/18/2007)

## 5. Transportation Choices 2020 – Veto Override

After six years of lobbying for secure, reliable funding for transit options in Minnesota, Sierra Club celebrated the legislature's override of the Governor's veto of the 2008 Transportation Spending bill with the Transit Partners coalition. The bill secures an estimated \$117 million annually for transit investments. These investments reduce global warming pollution, combat congestion, connect communities, and help Minnesotans reach their destinations



*Boy writing on the world's largest footprint petition on Global Warming Day of Action.*

“After six years of lobbying for secure, reliable funding for transit options in Minnesota, Sierra Club celebrated the legislature’s override of Governor Pawlenty’s veto of the 2008 Transportation Spending bill with the Transit Partners coalition.”



safely and conveniently. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 47-20. (HF 2800, 2/25/08)

## 6. Greening the Economy

Senator Ellen Anderson and Representative Jeremy Kalin led the charge on the Green Economy bill which establishes a green economy priority and a Green Economy Transition Taskforce to develop recommendations to assist the state in the transition to a greener economy. The bill also provides financing for energy improvements and renewable energy for state agencies and local governments. In addition, state agencies are required to identify ways to promote the green economy with existing loans and grants. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 52-11. (SF 3096, 5/17/2008)

## 7. Green Solutions Act

In 2008, Senator Ellen Anderson and Representative Kate Knuth carried this bill as a follow up to the Global Warming Mitigation Act. They proposed adopting a strong negotiating position for the Governor leading into the regional greenhouse gas accord negotia-

tions; however, opposition by industry led to compromises. The bill drastically changed through the committee process, and now provides \$500,000 for studies on the costs and benefits associated with a cap-and-trade program and auction revenues. It also established a Legislative Advisory Taskforce to monitor the regional negotiations. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 41-22. (HF 3195, 5/15/08)

## 8. Increasing the ATV gas tax set-aside

Senator Marty attempted to amend the omnibus tax bill to remove language which would increase the percentage of the state gas tax which is used to fund motorized recreation, including ATV trails and programs. Every year, more than 2.5% of the gas sales tax is set-aside for motorized recreation. During the last biennium, this resulted in \$15 million for motorized recreation of which \$6 million was diverted for snowmobile and ATV use alone. In the next biennium, motorized recreation will siphon approximately \$50 million as a result of the transportation spending bill. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 25-39. (HF 3201, 3/6/08)

*Sierra Club teams with Transit Partners Coalition members on Lincoln’s birthday at the Capitol in support of stable Transit funding.*

# SENATE SCORES

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Renewable Energy Standard	Global Warming Mitigation Act	Great Lakes Compact	Mercury Products Phase Out	Transportation Choices 2020 – Veto Override	Greening the Economy	Green Solutions Act	Increasing the ATV gas tax set-aside
	%								
+ Vote in favor of the environment	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Vote against the environment	86%	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	-
I Ineligible to vote	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
A Absent (not included in final score)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	100%	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	+
	88%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
	80%	+	+	A	+	+	A	A	-
	88%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	100%	I	I	I	I	+	+	+	+
	50%	+	+	A	A	-	+	-	-
	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	71%	+	+	+	+	+	A	-	-
	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	63%	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-
	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	83%	+	+	+	+	+	A	A	-
	38%	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
	63%	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-
	13%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	13%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-

+ Vote in favor of the environment  
 - Vote against the environment  
 I Ineligible to vote  
 A Absent (not included in final score)

Anderson, Ellen (DFL - 66)

Bakk, Thomas (DFL - 6)

Berglin, Linda (DFL - 61)

Betzold, Don (DFL - 51)

Bonoff, Terri (DFL - 43)

Carlson, Jim (DFL - 38)

Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL - 50)

Clark, Tarryl (DFL - 15)

Cohen, Richard (DFL - 64)

Dahle, Kevin (DFL - 25)

Day, Dick (R - 26)

Dibble, Scott (DFL - 60)

Dille, Steve (R - 18)

Doll, John (DFL - 40)

Erickson Ropes, Sharon (DFL - 31)

Fischbach, Michelle (R - 14)

Foley, Leo (DFL - 47)

Frederickson, Dennis (R - 21)

Gerlach, Chris (R - 37)

Gimse, Joe (R - 13)

Hann, David (R - 42)

Higgins, Linda (DFL - 58)

Ingebrigtsen, Bill (R - 11)



			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Renewable Energy Standard	Global Warming Mitigation Act	Great Lakes Compact	Mercury Products Phase Out	Transportation Choices 2020 – Veto Override	Greening the Economy	Green Solutions Act	Increasing the ATV gas tax set-aside
+ Vote in favor of the environment - Vote against the environment I Ineligible to vote A Absent (not included in final score)	%									
		Johnson, Debbie (R - 49)	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
	50%	Jungbauer, Michael (R - 48)	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
	38%	Koch, Amy (R - 19)	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-
	38%	Koering, Paul (R - 12)	+	+	A	+	-	+	-	-
	57%	Kubly, Gary (DFL - 20)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	100%	Langseth, Keith (DFL - 9)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
	88%	Larson, Dan (DFL - 63)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	100%	Latz, Ron (DFL - 44)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	100%	Limmer, Warren (R - 32)	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+
	50%	Lourey, Tony (DFL - 8)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
	88%	Lynch, Ann (DFL - 30)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
	88%	Marty, John (DFL - 54)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	100%	Metzen, James (DFL - 39)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
	88%	Michel, Geoff (R - 41)	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	A
	71%	Moua, Mee (DFL - 67)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A
	100%	Murphy, Steve (DFL - 28)	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	+
	100%	Olseen, Rick (DFL - 17)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
	88%	Olson, Gen (R - 33)	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
	50%	Olson, Mary (DFL - 4)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
	88%	Ortman, Julianne (R - 34)	+	+	A	+	-	-	-	-
	33%	Pappas, Sandra (DFL - 65)	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	A
	100%	Pariseau, Pat (R - 36)	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
	43%	Pogemiller, Lawrence (DFL - 59)	+	A	+	+	-	-	-	-
	88%		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-

## SENATE SCORES

## 10

## Senate Scores

# HOUSE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

## 1. The Renewable Energy Standard

Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard of 25% by 2025 (30% for Xcel Energy) leads the nation! Renewable energy sources are those that for all practical purposes cannot be depleted and are least costly for the environment. Wind sources comprise a large fraction of this package. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 123-10. (SF 4, 2/19/2007)

## 2. Biomass Energy Requirement

Renewable energy sources, specifically wind energy, are not only efficient, but are often quite inexpensive. However, opposition to the Renewable Energy Standard sought to replace 50% of the energy generated for the standard with biomass energy. While in a few situations, biomass energy is an environmentally friendly energy source, it is much more costly than wind power. The Sierra Club opposes use of federal forest biomass for energy and only supports forest biomass after there are ecologically-based third-party certification standards in place. The Club supports biomass from land converted from row crops to native perennial prairie plants. Corn based transportation and energy fuels have negative air and water quality and wildlife impacts. Nevertheless, Representative Westrom proposed an amendment to require 50% of the energy produced for the standard to be from biomass energies, thereby making implementation of the standard much more expensive and less appealing. A vote in the negative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 41-91. (SF 4, 2/19/2007)

## 3. Global Warming Mitigation Act

Global warming was a pressing issue during this legislative session. Fortunately, the legislature passed a comprehensive bill, carried by Representative Bill Hilty, to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are responsible for the global warming dilemma. A vote in the

affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 92-37. (SF 145, 5/11/2007)

## 4. Metro Sales Tax for Transit

Representative Chris DeLaForest offered an amendment to delete the Metro sales tax for transit spending from the 2007 Transportation Finance bill. The Metro sales tax provision gave counties the opportunity to assess the sales tax to generate much needed funding for transit in the Metro region. A version of this provision passed in 2008. A vote in the negative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 51-76. (HF 946, 3/24/2007)

## 5. Xcel Energy to Provide Information on Manitoba Hydro's Impacts

Power plants are often responsible for damage to the environment and can threaten public health. Hence, it is vitally important that

*Ima Lake in the Boundary Waters*





*Transit Partners volunteers and staff advocate for Transportation Bill at suburban park-and-rides.*

individual communities served by specific power plants be aware of the related environmental consequences. During floor debate in the House of Representatives regarding the Omnibus Environmental and Natural Resources Appropriations Bill, Representatives Aaron Peterson, Moe and Kalin moved to require Xcel Energy to provide information regarding shoreline damage as well as other environmental and public health concerns when dealing with individual communities signed onto the Northern Flood Agreement. This amendment educates the public on the environmentally and socially harmful consequences of Manitoba Hydro's large-scale hydro project. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 66-66. (SF 2096, 4/17/2007)

#### **6. Restricting Scope of the Wetlands Conservation Act**

A Wetlands Conservation Act provision proposed in 2007 allots money to protect public wetlands in Minnesota. While there are wetlands on private property, the main focus of this provision is to protect wetlands in Minnesota public lands. However, Representative Tom Hackbarth moved to strike the term "public lands" in an attempt to vastly restrict the scope of the provision. If these appropriations did not apply to public lands, the money would have significantly less impact on the conservation and protection of the majority of Minnesota's wetlands. A vote in the negative

was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 40-94. (SF 2096, 4/17/2007)

#### **7. Expansion of Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Trails**

Off-road vehicles pose a tremendous threat to Minnesota's environment, specifically the wetlands, streams and forests. While law currently allows off-road vehicle use in designated areas on public lands, often times wetlands, Representative Tom Hackbarth moved to amend the bill, allowing off-road vehicle trails to be built outside of those designated areas. This increases the risk of damage to public wetlands, and could prove devastating to the health of the environment in Minnesota. A vote in the negative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 53-79. (SF 2096, 4/17/2007)

#### **8. Elimination of the De Minimis Clause in the Wetland Conservation Act**

The "De Minimis" clause specifically enclosed in the Wetlands Conservation Act provisions is crucially important for the protection of wetlands in Minnesota. This clause severely restricts several exemptions to following the requirements of the Wetlands Conservation Act, ensuring that the wetlands are protected or replaced if drained or degraded. De Minimis refers to the area of wetland that may be drained without being replaced or worked around. This vital clause, however, came under

"Minnesota became the first of eight states and two provinces to ratify a compact regarding water protection in the Great Lakes. Once all respective governments ratify the covenant, the bill will provide a water management strategy to help protect the lakes' natural water. "



attack, when Representative Tom Hackbarth moved to strike the entire piece from the initial language of the bill. This move, if successful, would have endangered Minnesota wetlands by allowing developers to circumvent the previous restrictions to the Wetlands Conservation Act. A vote in the negative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 50-84. (SF 2096, 4/17/2007)

### 9. Mercury Products Phase Out

Mercury is a very dangerous element and can cause serious medical problems including impairing brain development in newborn children. Unfortunately, much work needs to be done to educate the public about these dangers. Similarly, the public needs information about the proper way to recycle products that contain mercury. During this past legislative session, the Minnesota legislature passed a bill, carried by Senator John Marty, that phases out products that contain mercury and promotes the use of safer alternative devices. This bill also increases warnings and labeling for products containing mercury when there are no safer alternatives. The overall aim of this bill is to phase out products containing mercury and educate the public on the dangers of this harmful element, and how best to deal with products that contain it. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 109-28. (SF 1085, 4/30/2007)

“Mercury is a very dangerous element and can cause serious medical problems including impairing brain development in newborn children. Unfortunately, much work needs to be done to educate the public about these dangers.

### 10. Relaxation of Green House Gas Prohibitions

Some legislators attempted to weaken the provisions in the Global Warming Mitigation Act by deleting a passage prohibiting long term increased greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. This amendment, proposed by Representative Seifert, attempts to allow large energy facilities to be built and contribute to harmful green house gas emissions until the cap from the bill is fully implemented. A vote in the negative position was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 50-78. (SF 145, 5/11/2007)

### 11. Great Lakes Compact

Minnesota became the first of eight states and two provinces to ratify a compact regarding water protection in the Great Lakes. Once all respective governments ratify the covenant, the bill will provide a water management strategy to help protect the lakes' natural water. This bill was carried by Representative Thomas Huntley in the House of Representatives. A vote in the affirmative was the vote supported by the Sierra Club. In the Senate, the bill passed 57-3. In the House of Representatives, the bill passed 97-35. (HF 110, 2/1/2007)

### 12. Allow New Nuclear Power Plants

In 2008, Representative Tom Hackbarth attempted to amend the Omnibus Energy bill to lift the moratorium on new nuclear power plants by allowing the Public Utilities Commis-

*A press conference at Otter Tail Corporation Shareholder meeting. From left to right: Cesia Kearns, organizer for the Sierra Club, Peggy Peters from the Sisseton Wahpeton Environmental Advisory Council, Gwe and his mother Winona LaDuke, Executive Director of Honor the Earth, and an otter for clean energy.*



sion to issue a Certificate of Need for a nuclear power plant after a “review of the Price-Anderson Act.” The Price-Anderson Act of 1957, renewed for 20 years in 2005, limits the liability of the nuclear industry from nuclear incidents by capping industry’s responsibility at \$10 billion. The Sierra Club believes investment in clean, safe, and affordable energy solutions and resolution of the significant safety issues, disposal of spent fuels, and possible diversion of weapon-grade nuclear materials is required before nuclear power should be considered. A vote in the negative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 52-79. (SF 3337, 4/23/2008)

### 13. Transportation Choices 2020 – Veto Override

Since 2002, transit advocates have worked to secure real funding for transit options in Minnesota. Six years later, their work was realized. On February 25, 2008, the legislature showed historic courage by successfully overriding Governor Pawlenty’s veto of the transportation funding bill. The bill secures a dedicated funding source for a transit system that will reduce greenhouse gas emission, combat congestion, connect communities, and help Minnesotans reach their destinations safely and conveniently. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 91-41. (HF 2800, 2/25/2008)

### 14. Funding for the Minnesota Clean Car Act

Representatives Zellers, Heidgerken, Buesgens, Urdahl, Magnus, Finstad, Hamilton, Draskowski, Simpson, Brod and Dean attempted to amend the Finance bill to remove \$134,000 dedicated to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for rule-making that would have allowed Minnesota to join 13 states requiring stricter vehicle emission standards. A vote in the negative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 50-81. (HF 1812, 4/3/2008)

### 15. Green Solutions Act

As a result of much negotiation, the Green Solutions Act fails to demonstrate Minnesota’s commitment to key elements of a just and effective regional cap-and-trade system. However, the bill does require studies of the costs and benefits, including environment and health benefits, of implementing a regional cap-and-trade program in Minnesota. It also studies opportunities for auction revenues generated by requiring industry to pay the fair market value for its global warming pollution, and establishes a Legislative Advisory Taskforce to monitor the regional negotiations. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 91-38. (HF 3195, 4/23/2008)

### 16. Sustainable Building Guidelines

By 2030, new buildings financed by state bonds will be carbon neutral as a result of standards passed this year. Representative Bill Hilty carried the sustainable building guidelines which require all new state buildings and major renovations to state buildings exceed state energy code by at least 30%. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 109-20. (HF 2706, 4/30/2008)

### 17. Groundwater Protection at Landfills

Representative Joe Hoppe attempted to amend the Finance bill to remove a provision that would not allow municipal solid waste or industrial waste sites in locations highly sensitive to groundwater contamination. The opposition to this provision focused largely on its impact on a fly ash landfill proposed by Xcel Energy for the Allen S. King coal-fired power plant in Washington County. The Sierra Club does not support Xcel Energy’s proposal due to groundwater concerns. A vote in the negative was the position supported by the Sierra

*Global Warming Day of Action at the State Capitol: Setting up the Solve Global Warming banner.*





“As a result of much negotiation, the Green Solutions Act fails to demonstrate Minnesota’s commitment to key elements of a just and effective regional cap-and-trade system. However, the bill does require studies of the costs and benefits, including environment and health benefits, of implementing a regional cap-and-



Club. The amendment failed 64-69. (HF 1812, 4/3/2008)

#### **18. Addressing Potent Global Warming Pollutants**

Representative Tom Emmer attempted to amend the omnibus energy bill to remove legislation that addresses “Superwarmers” – greenhouse gases thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide. The amendment failed, and this legislation has become groundbreaking law. The law requires large users and manufacturers of these gases to report to the MPCA how much they use and make. The MPCA must recommend measures to reduce these emissions. A vote in the negative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 45-86. (SF 3337, 4/23/2008)

#### **19. Solar Energy “Carve-Out”**

In Renewable Energy Standard Representative Bud Nornes attempted to amend the omnibus energy bill to remove a proposed solar “carve-out” in the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard (MRES.) Of the 25% renewable energy required by the MRES (30% for Xcel), this mandate would set aside just over a hundredth of a percent (0.0125%) for solar electric in the next 5 years (by 2012.) Cur-

rently, Minnesota has invested in less than 1 MW of solar energy. The “carve-out” would expand Minnesota’s investment to 4 MW while promoting both utility and customer solar electric projects. Despite this amendment failing, this provision was stripped out of the bill in conference. A vote in the negative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The amendment failed 46-84. (SF 3337, 4/23/2008)

#### **20. Greening the Economy**

The Blue Green Alliance is a partnership between the Sierra Club and the United Steelworkers Union to promote “Green Jobs for America.” Representative Jeremy Kalin and Senator Ellen Anderson led the charge on the Green Economy bill (SF3096) which establishes a green economy priority and a Green Economy Taskforce to develop recommendations to assist the state in the transition to a greener economy. In addition, the bill provides financing for energy improvements and renewable energy for state agencies and local governments. The Sierra Club looks forward to promoting further government leadership on green jobs. A vote in the affirmative was the position supported by the Sierra Club. The bill passed 103-28. (SF 3096, 5/7/2008)

*Senator John Marty and former Chapter Director Scott Elkins at a Clean Cars media event at the State Capitol.*

# HOUSE SCORES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Renewable Energy Standard	+	+	A	A	-	+	-	-	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Biomass Energy Requirement	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Global Warming Mitigation Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Metro Sales Tax for Transit	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Xcel to Provide Information on Manitoba Hydro	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Restricting Scope of the Wetlands Conservation Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Expansion of Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Trails	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Elimination of the De Minimis Clause (wetlands)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Mercury Products Phase Out	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Relaxation of Green House Gas Prohibitions	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Great Lakes Compact	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Allow New Nuclear Power Plants	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Transportation Choices 2020 – Veto Override	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Funding for the Minnesota Clean Car Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Green Solutions Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Sustainable Building Guidelines	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Groundwater Protection at Landfills	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Addressing Potent Global Warming Pollutants	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Solar Energy “Carve-Out”	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Greening the Economy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	82%	0%	45%	85%	90%	13%	95%	50%	100%	100%	22%	100%	100%	0%	95%	100%	100%	35%	100%	20%
	0%	25%	10%	65%	90%															
Abeler, Jim (R - 48B)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Anderson, Bruce (R - 19A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Anderson, Sarah (R - 43A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Anzelc, Tom (DFL - 3A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Atkins, Joe (DFL - 39B)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Beard, Michael (R - 35A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Benson, John (DFL - 43B)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Berns, John (R - 33B)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bigham, Karla (DFL - 57A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bly, David (DFL - 25B)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Brod, Laura (R - 25A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Brown, Robin (DFL - 27A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Brynaert, Kathy (DFL - 23B)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Buesgens, Mark (R - 35B)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bunn, Julie (DFL - 56A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Carlson, Lyndon (DFL - 45B)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Clark, Karen (DFL - 61A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cornish, Tony (R - 24B)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Davnie, Jim (DFL - 62A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Dean, Matt (R - 52B)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
DeLaForest, Chris (R - 49A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Demmer, Randy (R - 29A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Dettmer, Bob (R - 52A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Dill, David (DFL - 6A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Dittrich, Denise (DFL - 47A)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

+ Vote in favor of the environment  
 - Vote against the environment  
 I Ineligible to vote  
 A Absent (not included in final score)



		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Renewable Energy Standard	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Biomass Energy Requirement	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Global Warming Mitigation Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Metro Sales Tax for Transit	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Xcel to Provide Information on Manitoba Hydro	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Restricting Scope of the Wetlands Conservation Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Expansion of Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Trails	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Elimination of the De Minimis Clause (wetlands)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Mercury Products Phase Out	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Relaxation of Green House Gas Prohibitions	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Great Lakes Compact	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Allow New Nuclear Power Plants	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Transportation Choices 2020 – Veto Override	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Funding for the Minnesota Clean Car Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Green Solutions Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Sustainable Building Guidelines	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Groundwater Protection at Landfills	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Addressing Potent Global Warming Pollutants	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Solar Energy “Carve-Out”	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Greening the Economy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95%	100%
		100%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	75%	5%	90%	5%	100%	95%	20%	15%	100%	21%	5%	30%	95	

# HOUSE SCORES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
+ Vote in favor of the environment - Vote against the environment I Ineligible to vote A Absent (not included in final score)	Greening the Economy																			
	Solar Energy “Carve-Out”																			
	Addressing Potent Global Warming Pollutants																			
	Groundwater Protection at Landfills																			
	Sustainable Building Guidelines																			
	Green Solutions Act																			
	Funding for the Minnesota Clean Car Act																			
	Transportation Choices 2020 – Veto Override																			
	Allow New Nuclear Power Plants																			
	Great Lakes Compact																			
	Relaxation of Green House Gas Prohibitions																			
	Mercury Products Phase Out																			
	Elimination of the De Minimis Clause (wetlands)																			
	Expansion of Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Trails																			
	Restricting Scope of the Wetlands Conservation Act																			
	Xcel to Provide Information on Manitoba Hydro																			
	Metro Sales Tax for Transit																			
	Global Warming Mitigation Act																			
	Biomass Energy Requirement																			
	Renewable Energy Standard																			
	%	20%	100%	95%	89%	33%	89%	100%	100%	80%	100%	95%	100%	100%	70%	0%	71%	100%	30%	100%
		Hoppe, Joe (R - 34B)	Hornstein, Frank (DFL - 60B)	Hortman, Melissa (DFL - 47B)	Hosch, Larry (DFL - 14B)	Howes, Larry (R - 4B)	Huntley, Thomas (DFL - 7A)	Jaros, Mike (DFL - 7B)	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL - 67B)	Juhnke, Al (DFL - 13B)	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL - 59B)	Kalin, Jeremy (DFL - 17B)	Keliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL - 60A)	Knuth, Kate (DFL - 50B)	Koenen, Lyle (DFL - 20B)	Kohls, Paul (R - 34A)	Kranz, Scott (DFL - 51A)	Laine, Carolyn (DFL - 50A)	Lanning, Morrie (R - 9A)	Lenczewski, Ann (DFI - 40B)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Renewable Energy Standard	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
Biomass Energy Requirement	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Global Warming Mitigation Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Metro Sales Tax for Transit	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Xcel to Provide Information on Manitoba Hydro	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Restricting Scope of the Wetlands Conservation Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Expansion of Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Trails	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Elimination of the De Minimis Clause (wetlands)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Mercury Products Phase Out	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Relaxation of Green House Gas Prohibitions	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Great Lakes Compact	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Allow New Nuclear Power Plants	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Transportation Choices 2020 – Veto Override	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Funding for the Minnesota Clean Car Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Green Solutions Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Sustainable Building Guidelines	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Groundwater Protection at Landfills	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Addressing Potent Global Warming Pollutants	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Solar Energy “Carve-Out”	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Greening the Economy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

# HOUSE SCORES

+ Vote in favor of the environment  
 - Vote against the environment  
 I Ineligible to vote  
 A Absent (not included in final score)

Magnus, Doug (R - 22A)	20%
Mahoney, Tim (DFL - 67A)	88%
Mariani, Carlos (DFL - 65B)	100%
Marquart, Paul (DFL - 9B)	85%
Masin, Sandra (DFL - 38A)	100%
McFarlane, Carol (R - 53B)	45%
McNamara, Denny (R - 57B)	55%
Moe, Frank (DFL - 4A)	100%
Morgan, Will (DFL - 40A)	95%
Morrow, Terry (DFL - 23A)	100%
Mullery, Joe (DFL - 58A)	100%
Murphy, Erin (DFL - 64A)	100%
Murphy, Mary (DFL - 6B0)	100%
Nelson, Michael V. (DFL - 46A)	90%
Nornes, Bud (R - 10A)	15%
Norton, Kim (DFL - 29B)	100%
Olin, Dave (DFL - 1A)	65%
Olson, Mark (R - 16B)	0%
Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL - 11B)	75%
Ozment, Dennis (R - 37B)	65%
Paulsen, Erik (R - 42B)	37%
Paymar, Michael (DFL - 64B)	100%
Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL - 31A)	79%
Peppin, Joyce (R - 32A)	11%
Peterson, Aaron (DFL - 20A)	100%

# HOUSE SCORES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Renewable Energy Standard	A	A	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	A	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	
Biomass Energy Requirement	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Global Warming Mitigation Act	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Metro Sales Tax for Transit	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Xcel to Provide Information on Manitoba Hydro	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Restricting Scope of the Wetlands Conservation Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Expansion of Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Trails	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Elimination of the De Minimis Clause (wetlands)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Mercury Products Phase Out	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Relaxation of Green House Gas Prohibitions	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Great Lakes Compact	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Allow New Nuclear Power Plants	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Transportation Choices 2020 – Veto Override	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Funding for the Minnesota Clean Car Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Green Solutions Act	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Sustainable Building Guidelines	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Groundwater Protection at Landfills	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Addressing Potent Global Warming Pollutants	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Solar Energy “Carve-Out”	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Greening the Economy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	

	%	71%	95%	89%	75%	21%	95%	100%	100%	5%	89%	21%	0%	100%	15%	100%	100%	35%	70%	85%	95%	90%	95%	80%	100%	20%
		Peterson, Neil W. (R - 41B)	Peterson, Sandra (DFL - 45A)	Poppe, Jean (DFL - 27B)	Rukavina, Tom (DFL - 5A)	Ruth, Connie (R - 26A)	Ruud, Maria (DFL - 42A)	Sailer, Brita (DFL - 2B)	Scalze, Bev (DFL - 54B)	Seifert, Marty (R - 21A)	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL - 5B)	Severson, Dan (R - 14A)	Shimanski, Ron (R - 18A)	Simon, Steve (DFL - 44A)	Simpson, Dean (R - 10B)	Slawik, Nora (DFL - 55B)	Slocum, Linda (DFL - 63B)	Smith, Steve (R - 33A)	Solberg, Loren (DFL - 3B)	Swails, Marsha (DFL - 26B)	Thao, Cy (DFL - 65A)	Thissen, Paul (DFL - 63A)	Tillberry, Tom (DFL - 51B)	Tingelstad, Kathy (R - 49B)	Tschumper, Ken (DFL - 31B)	Urdahl, Dean (R - 18B)





# LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

The 2007 legislative session was lauded as a giant step forward on Minnesota's path to developing a comprehensive plan for curbing its global warming emissions and becoming more energy independent. However, during the 2008 session the Governor Pawlenty's Office of Energy Security stalled real progress by delaying the release of the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group's recommendations to realize global warming reduction goals set in 2007. Despite the delay, the legislature made progress on smaller global warming solutions. In addition, the 2008 legislature made a historic investment in transportation choices by overriding the Governor's veto on the transportation finance bill.

Paragraphs in this review marked with an \* concern matters that are already covered in more detail in the sections Senate Vote Description and House Vote Description on pages 6 and 11.

## 2007 Legislative Session

### Priority Legislation

#### \* The Nation's Most Aggressive Renewable Energy Standard

Early in the legislative session, the Minnesota Legislature passed what is widely believed to be the strongest renewable energy standard in the country. The legislation is the product of years of public pressure, coordinated by the Sierra Club and our allies, which set the stage for an agreement reached between Minnesota's electric utilities and the Clean Energy Minnesota coalition. The new law requires the state's largest electricity provider, Xcel Energy, to generate 30 percent of its energy from renewable resources by 2020, with at least 25 percent generated by wind energy. All other utilities will be required to generate at least 25 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2025.

#### \* Global Warming Mitigation Act of 2007

In the final days of the legislative session, the Minnesota Legislature signaled its commitment to address global warming by passing a comprehensive omnibus energy policy bill. This Act was the result of an intense lobbying effort that was coordinated by the Sierra Club and the implementation of a powerful public outreach plan; including a Global Warming Day of Action at the State Capitol attended by 5,000 citizens. The new law establishes global warming emission reductions across all sectors of at least 15 percent by 2015; 30 percent by 2025; and 80 percent by 2050 compared to 2005 levels. The law also established the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group, which provided recommendations to Governor Pawlenty's Office of Energy Security to achieve the state's reduction goals in January 2008, and required Minnesota to work within the Midwest region toward reducing global warming emissions from local activities. The law sets an August 1, 2009 deadline for a "comprehensive and

*Rally outside the Public Utilities Commission, with the world's largest footprint petition, supporting clean alternatives to the Big Stone II coal plant.*



enforceable state law or rule pertaining to greenhouse gases that directly limits and substantially reduces, over time, statewide power sector carbon dioxide emissions”. If the State does not meet the August deadline, a moratorium on the following goes into effect: 1) construction of new large energy facilities; 2) importation of power from an out-of-state new large energy facility; and 3) the approval of a power purchase agreement that would increase global warming emissions unless the proposal to emit new emissions is offset by “permanent, quantifiable, verifiable, and enforceable” offsets that “would not have otherwise occurred.”

#### \* Energy Efficiency and Conservation Legislation

Of equal importance were the energy efficiency and conservation provisions of the omnibus energy policy bill which could result in a 25% reduction in Minnesota’s projected electric and natural gas use by 2025. This is accomplished by increasing the amount of a utility’s energy conservation to 1.5% of annual energy use and providing adequate incentives, including \$3 million to fund research in maximizing the success of ongoing energy efficiency programs. It also includes a “decoupling” pilot program directed and implemented by the Public Utilities Commission to decouple a utility’s profits from increased energy sales and create a new incentive that would be better aligned with reductions in energy sales that result from energy efficiency or conservation.

#### Promoting the Next Generation of Biofuels

With its partner organizations in the Clean Energy Minnesota Coalition, the Sierra Club promoted the development of an advanced cellulosic biofuels industry in Minnesota. Cellulosic biofuels are liquid fuels, such as ethanol, that can be derived from organic, renewable resources – typically plants or vegetable oils. New technologies to transform plant fibers into liquid renewable fuels are rapidly becoming economically competitive, and Minnesota is well-positioned to benefit from that growing marketplace and to be a leader in decreasing global warming pollution. The Sierra Club and our legislative partners sought to secure funding in the 2007-2008 agriculture budget to provide incentive payments for both growing cellulosic biomass other than corn, and for turning that cellulosic biomass into liquid fuels. The State Senate widely embraced this proposal, but the House

had other funding priorities and the proposal was not included in the final legislation. The Clean Energy Minnesota Coalition was, however, successful in securing other funding for additional research in biofuels production. The coalition also succeeded in passing policies that will establish a statewide working lands bioenergy program, which allows the purchase of long-term easements for the growing of perennial crops suitable for developing cellulosic biofuels. However, in 2008, the coalition was unsuccessful in securing adequate funding for these programs.

#### \* Funding for Transportation Choices

Minnesota’s legislature passed a significant transportation funding package in 2007; however, Governor Pawlenty vetoed the bill. A vote to override the governor failed by only seven votes in the House with only 20 minutes left in the 2007 session despite the hard work of advocates representing labor, transportation funding, and the Transit Partners Coalition (of which the Sierra Club is an active member.) The message was clear that the legislature and advocates were determined to find a veto-proof transportation funding solution in 2008 to provide much needed investment in Minnesota’s transportation infrastructure.

#### \* Wetlands Conservation Act Reform

The 2007 legislative session marked the first strengthening of the Wetland Conservation Act in its sixteen year history. The Sierra Club and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy worked to pass provisions in an omnibus finance bill that tighten exemptions in the Wetlands Conservation Act and requires additional reporting of the use of those exemptions.

#### Funding for County Biological Surveys

Sierra Club successfully worked with the Department of Natural Resources to advocate for adequate funding of the county biological surveys by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources. These surveys play a significant role in the collection of data concerning Minnesota’s plant and animal life. Approximately six hundred locations of rare species have been identified since the surveys’ inception nearly twenty years ago. Additionally, seventeen plants, two species, and a hybrid form of amphibians were identified – all of which were not known to exist in Minnesota prior to the surveys. This funding will assist a dozen counties that have either partially completed or are just beginning the survey. In these counties, some of the





*Informational hearing on sulfide mining draws a standing room only crowd at the Capitol.*

most diverse ecological areas and last remaining wilderness of the state await biological surveying.

#### **Mining without Harm**

During the 2007 Legislative session, the Sierra Club worked to set the stage for the adoption of new sulfide mining laws in future years. Sulfide mining is a harmful kind of mining that has never been commercially conducted in Minnesota, and involves the process of extracting tiny concentrations of precious metals that are embedded in sulfur-containing bedrock. When the sulfur in these rocks is exposed to air and moisture, a chemical and biological reaction generates sulfuric acid mine drainage that can leach into the surrounding environment. The Sierra Club has worked with legislators and allies to introduce legislation that would prohibit mining operations that have not been proven safe during actual operation and closure of a similar mine. Additionally, the legislation would prohibit mines that require perpetual wastewater treatment after the mine's closure as well as metallic sulfide mines in watersheds of special concern. Despite our efforts, no legislation was introduced due to end-of-session time constraints.

#### **Additional 2007 Environmental Issues**

##### **Electronic Waste Recycling**

Minnesota enacted a new law in 2007 for the collection and recycling of video display

devices sold to consumers: televisions, computer monitors and laptop computers. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency estimates that over 19 million pounds of electronics will be recycled in the first year under this program. Manufacturers who wish to sell products in Minnesota must register, pay a fee to the state, and collect and recycle these products from Minnesota consumers. The first year's target is 60% (by weight) of annual sales to be collected for recycling. Every year after, the target will be 80%.

##### **\* Great Lakes Compact**

Minnesota became the first state to ratify the Great Lakes Compact, a draft covenant among Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces, providing a regional water management strategy to protect Great Lakes water as a natural resource. (see page 13).

##### **Community-based Wind Energy**

With an estimated \$10 billion in investments over the next thirteen years for wind energy, two important laws help community-based producers to compete in Minnesota's energy future. First, the Rural Wind Development Project will create a host of services designed to help community wind developers compete with traditional development companies. The law sends \$1 million to Mankato State University to grant to a nonprofit organization to enhance the competitiveness of community wind projects. In addition, the Department of Commerce can grant \$2 million in low-interest loans of up to \$100,000 for a community wind project to be used for required pre-development transmission-related studies. A second law developed a Community-based Energy Development task force to recommend future wind legislation; plans for a state wide study to locate the best and cheapest places for new community wind projects; and gave counties the opportunity to assume responsibility for the siting of community-based wind energy projects up to 25 megawatts, thus greatly streamlining project approval.

##### **\* Manitoba Hydro Amendment**

Several of Manitoba's indigenous First Nations have called on Minnesota to request Manitoba Hydro, owned by the governments of Canada and Manitoba, to report on the impacts of its hydropower dams on the environment and First Nation communities. The amendment narrowly passed and became law in 2007. However, in 2008, this



amendment was stripped from law on an equally narrow vote.

## 2008 Legislative Session

### Priority Legislation

#### \* Dedicated Transit Funding and the Central Corridor

The 2008 legislature, pressed by the 35W bridge collapse, was determined to pass a veto-proof transportation finance bill early in the session. The bill allowed metropolitan counties to levy a ¼ cent sales tax for transit, generating an expected \$117 million/year. This funding will be used to: 1) construct eight new dedicated transitways; 2) double bus ridership by 2020; 3) create better transit facilities and new park-and-ride capacity; 4) provide funds for local governments' bike and pedestrian projects; and 5) expand transit in Greater Minnesota. Funding for the Central Corridor project was vetoed by the governor in the bonding bill as a negotiation tactic. In the final days, the Legislature and Governor Pawlenty struck a deal which secured \$70 million in bonding for the light rail train (LRT) corridor connecting St. Paul to Minneapolis – a key project in the metrowide transit plan.

#### \* Global Warming “Cap, Trade, and Auction”

After 2007, Sierra Club and allies thought the Minnesota Legislature was ‘charting an historic course’ in terms of addressing global warming and overall environmental concerns; however, the legislature was largely unable to stay on course. First, Governor Pawlenty’s Office of Energy Security withheld the recommendations of the Governor’s Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group which supported bold steps to reach the goals set in 2007. Next, despite overwhelming support in 2007, some members of the legislature seemed to get ‘cold feet’ when it came to implementing policies to achieve the goals they set. As a result, the original cap, trade, and auction bill which set clear policy guidance for the Governor’s regional cap, trade, and auction negotiations was stripped down to its barebones. What survived was \$500,000 for two studies on the costs and benefits of a cap, trade, and auction system and modeling of auction revenue investments. In addition, the law established a Legislative Advisory Group to monitor and provide input during the regional negotiations.

#### \* Enact California Clean Car Standard

Sierra Club worked with key Clean Energy

Minnesota groups to promote the Minnesota Clean Car Act which would allow Minnesota to join 14 other states in adopting California’s cleaner car standards. The bill faced major opposition from the auto industry and had split support among agricultural interests. The Minnesota Farmers’ Union supported the bill after the ethanol red herring was vetted in an Agricultural informational hearing. The bill died in committee; however, legislators in opposition noted that more fuel-efficient and cleaner vehicles are the future in Minnesota.

#### Risky Sulfide Mining

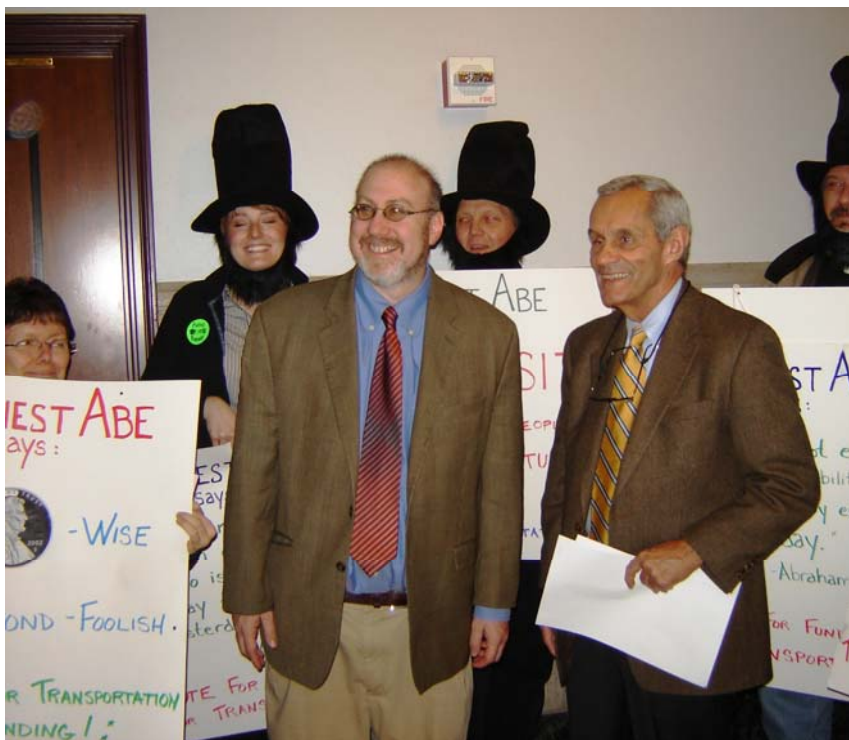
As a result of groundwork set in 2007, the Sierra Club and its allies were successful in securing an informational hearing on the environmental and economic concerns associated with sulfide mining. The hearing was controversial and involved over four hours of testimony to a full-capacity room. As a result of the hearing, areas of agreement and disagreement became clearer; however, no legislation was introduced.

#### Defensive Lobbying

##### School Trust Lands Management

Only 31 percent (2.5 million acres) remain of the land set-aside by the federal government when Minnesota became a state in 1858. These lands generate approximately \$16 million annually for the state’s education budget. The Sierra Club North Star Chapter’s Forestry committee was monitoring a bill regarding the

*Transit funding champions Reps. Frank Hornstein and Ron Erhardt join transit advocates on Abraham Lincoln’s birthday.*



management of these lands because it prioritized accelerating and maximizing the sale of school trust lands which was in conflict with the intent that these lands be managed for long-term economic benefit.. In addition, the bill established an advisory group of experts in forestry, mining, real estate, but provided no voice for conservation. The Sierra Club successfully worked with legislators to better align the bill with the original intent of the school trust lands and secured a seat for a conservation organization on the advisory group.

### Protecting Minnesota's Wetlands

Several issue committees in the chapter monitored a piece of legislation which would weaken the Wetland Conservation Act's (WCA) goal of "no net-loss of wetlands" by allowing the preservation of existing wetlands to be banked as credits for wetland destruction mitigation. The Sierra Club worked with Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and legislators to limit the impact this legislation would have on wetlands. The Sierra Club preferred no legislation using preservation as mitigation would become law; however, ultimately, a more limited version of the bill passed.

### Protecting Voyageurs National Park

The Forestry committee discovered a late-session effort to prohibit state conservation officers from enforcing federal laws in Voyageurs National Park where the state and

federal governments have joint jurisdiction. Although this could impact several issues in the Park, the primary issue was the state speed limit was set by the county at 65 mph (15 mph faster than state law elsewhere); meanwhile, the federal speed limit is 45 mph. Sierra Club worked with Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Voyageurs National Park Association, Minnesota Conservation Federation, and legislators to remove this language. Ultimately, a compromise was struck and a report will be completed regarding the issue.

### Additional 2008 Environmental Issues

#### \* Promoting Green Jobs in Minnesota

The legislature established a green economy priority in 2008 which requires almost all state agencies to look for opportunities to use grants and loans to promote green jobs. The bill defines the green economy as products, processes, methods, technologies, or services intended to increase renewable energy; reduce energy consumption and/or global warming pollution; monitor, protect, restore and preserve the quality of surface waters; and/or expand the use of biofuels. In addition, the law establishes a Green Economy Transition task force charged with completing a market analysis and developing recommendations on draft legislation, budget, administrative action, and collaborative or individual efforts.

#### \* Sustainable Buildings 2030

By 2030, new buildings financed by state bonds will be carbon neutral as a result of standards passed this year. The sustainable building guidelines require all new state buildings and major renovations to state buildings exceed state energy code by at least 30%. The law also establishes a process to move all buildings in Minnesota toward greater energy efficiency.

#### \* Spotlight on High Potential Global Warming Pollution

A relatively small bill makes a national splash by requiring reporting of the use and manufacture of "superwarmers" – pollutants thousands of times more potent per molecule than carbon dioxide in warming our planet.

### The Tools We Used

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter supports a full-time, paid lobbyist with a Government Relations committee and Legislative committee. The Government

*Exploring the rare and threatened wetland Seminary Fen near Chaska.*





Relations committee trains, supports, and expands our statewide network of citizen lobby teams. The Legislative committee provides guidance on legislative positions, represents the Chapter's issue committees' legislative agendas, and tracks environmental legislation proposed throughout the session to recommend supportive or defensive efforts.

### Legislative Agenda

Every year, the Chapter's Legislative committee works with the Conservation committee to identify a legislative agenda and prioritize the use of the Chapter's resources, including staff time. This agenda is published at the beginning of the session and is supplemented as necessary by the Legislative committee's bill tracking.

### Citizen Lobby Teams and Member Outreach

Sierra Club is one of the few environmental organizations in Minnesota with the ability to quickly mobilize in legislative districts thanks to a growing network of citizen lobby teams. Currently, we have active citizen lobby teams in Mankato and the Western suburbs. New teams are being formed for the 2009 legislative session in St. Cloud, Dakota County, Shoreview, and Rochester. These teams hold in-district meetings, phone banks, meetings at the capitol with their legislators and are building long-term relationships with their leaders.

If the Chapter does not have an active citizen lobby team in a target district, we are able to mobilize volunteer via phoning or email to engage our members. With 24,000 members around the state, Sierra Club has the ability to engage constituents in every district in the state.

### Coalition Efforts

The North Star Chapter works with coalition partners, and continually seeks to grow those coalitions to representatives outside the typical environmental community. In addition to Clean Energy Minnesota and the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, the Sierra Club partners with less-traditional allies; such as, the United Steelworkers of America in the Blue-Green Coalition and the Minnesota Transportation Alliance in the Transit Partners Coalition.

### Electronic Updates and Alerts

Weekly updates on the legislature's progress were electronically distributed during 2007 and less frequently in 2008 to a list of over 200 participants. The North Star



Chapter's action alert system allows constituents to quickly contact legislators on Sierra Club priorities. In 2008, the action alert system helped draw legislators' attention to a small provision with big impacts on wetlands. As a result, we were able to improve that provision and limit those impacts.

### The Future of Minnesota's Environment

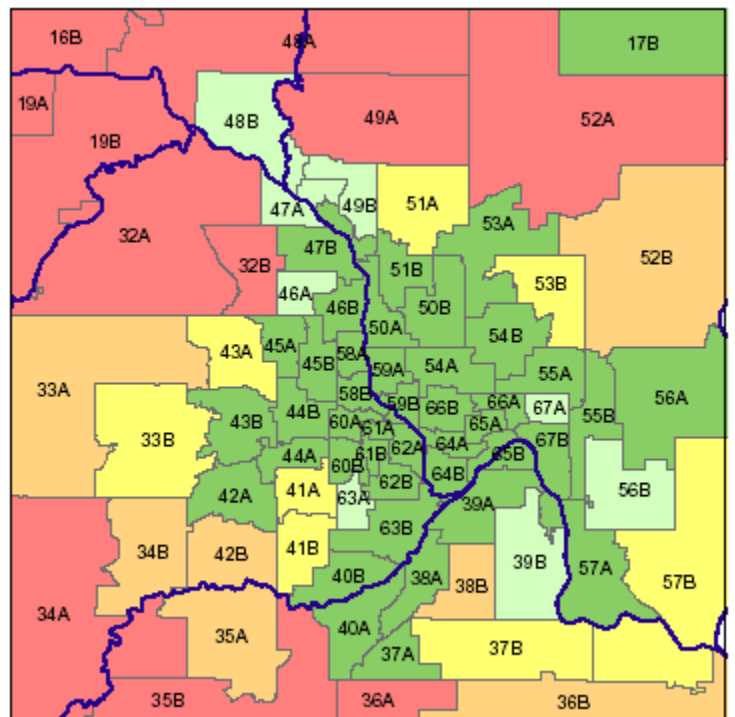
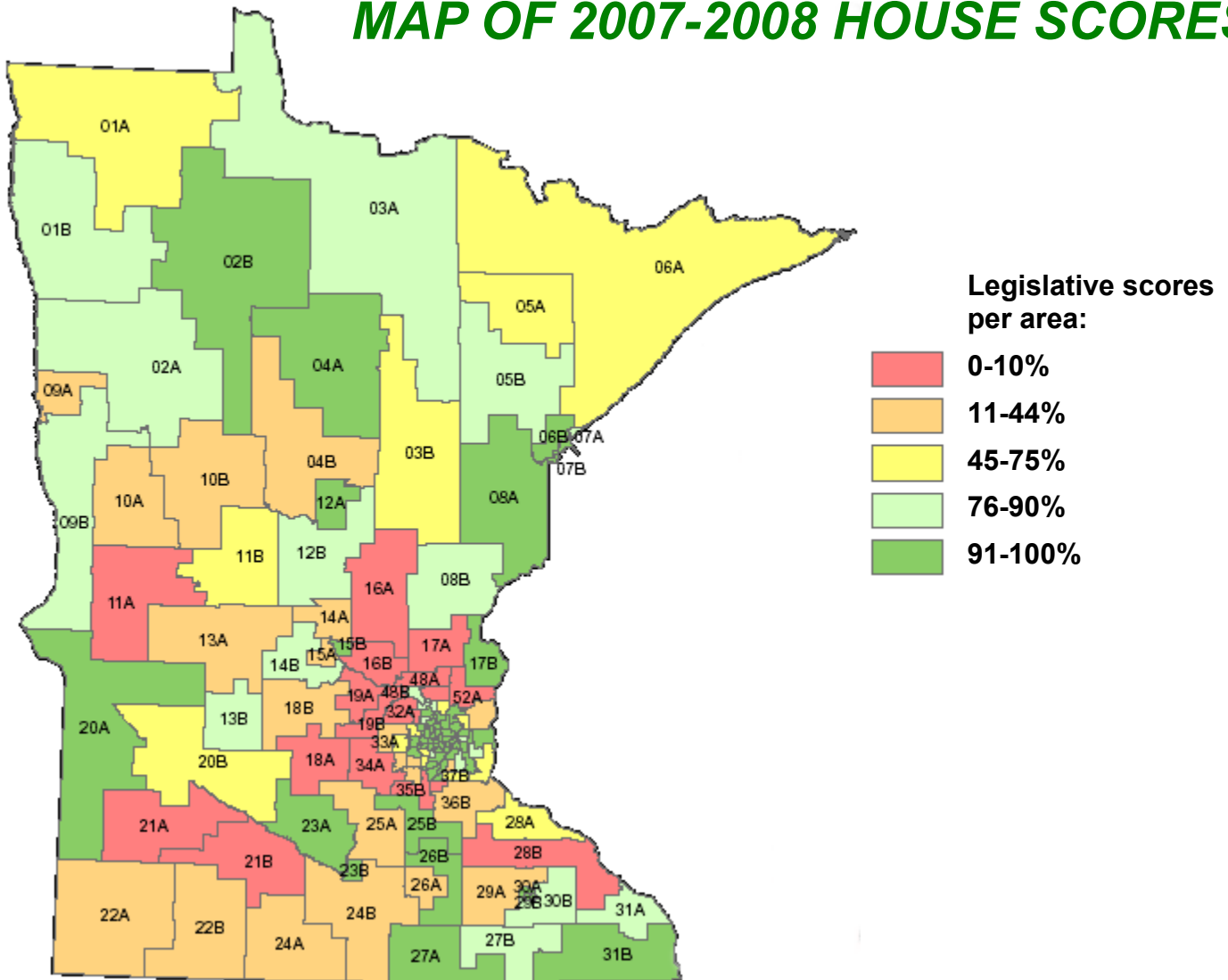
The 2007 and 2008 legislatures charted a slightly unsteady, but historic course regarding Minnesota's commitment to a clean energy future, addressing global warming pollution, protecting the environment, and building a green economy. True leadership will be required for Minnesota to steadily remain on this historic course. The Sierra Club North Star Chapter remains optimistic that Minnesota's leadership will rise to this challenge.

With our 20,000 members in Minnesota, a committed volunteer base, and dedicated staff, the Sierra Club will continue to be a leader in environmental advocacy at the Minnesota Capitol. Our ability to influence positive legislative change, both as an independent organization and in conjunction with coalition partners, continues to grow due to the chapter's strong leadership and a desire by Minnesotans to address the critical environmental issues of our time.

Keep informed of the North Star Chapter's legislative efforts by visiting: <http://northstar.sierraclub.org/politics/index.html>

*Crowd at Global Warming Day of Action. About 5000 Sierra Club members, volunteers and concerned citizens showed up at the rally.*

# MAP OF 2007-2008 HOUSE SCORES



# MEMBERS OF THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

Dist. Member	Dist. Member	Dist. Member	Dist. Member
01 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	18 Dille, Steve (R)	35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	52 Vandevener, Ray (R)
01A Olin, Dave (DFL)	18A Shimanski, Ron (R)	35A Beard, Michael (R)	52A Dettmer, Bob (R)
01B Lieder, Bernard (DFL)	18B Urdahl, Dean (R)	35B Buesgens, Mark (R)	52B Dean, Matt (R)
02 Skoe, Rod (DFL)	19 Koch, Amy T. (R)	36 Pariseau, Pat (R)	53 Rummel, Sandy (DFL)
02A Eken, Kent (DFL)	19A Anderson, Bruce (R)	36A Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	53A Gardner, Paul (DFL)
02B Sailer, Brita (DFL)	19B Emmer, Tom (R)	36B Garofalo, Pat (R)	53B McFarlane, Carol (R)
03 Saxhaug, Tom (DFL)	20 Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	37 Gerlach, Chris (R)	54 Marty, John (DFL)
03A Anzelc, Tom (DFL)	20A Peterson, Aaron (DFL)	37A Madore, Shelley (DFL)	54A Greiling, Mindy (DFL)
03B Solberg, Loren (DFL)	20B Koenen, Lyle (DFL)	37B Ozment, Dennis (R)	54B Scalze, Bev (DFL)
04 Olson, Mary A. (DFL)	21 Frederickson, Dennis (R)	38 Carlson, Jim (DFL)	55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)
04A Moe, Frank (DFL)	21A Seifert, Marty (R)	38A Masin, Sandra (DFL)	55A Lillie, Leon (DFL)
04B Howes, Larry (R)	21B Finstad, Brad (R)	38B Wardlow, Lynn (R)	55B Slawik, Nora (DFL)
05 Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	39 Metzen, James P. (DFL)	56 Saltzman, Kathy (DFL)
05A Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	22A Magnus, Doug (R)	39A Hansen, Rick (DFL)	56A Bunn, Julie (DFL)
05B Sertich, Anthony (DFL)	22B Hamilton, Rod (R)	39B Atkins, Joe (DFL)	56B Swails, Marsha (DFL)
06 Bakk, Thomas M. (DFL)	23 Sheran, Kathy (DFL)	40 Doll, John (DFL)	57 Sieben, Katie (DFL)
06A Dill, David (DFL)	23A Morrow, Terry (DFL)	40A Morgan, Will (DFL)	57A Bigham, Karla (DFL)
06B Murphy, Mary (DFL)	23B Brynaert, Kathy (DFL)	40B Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	57B McNamara, Denny (R)
07 Solon, Yvonne Prettner (DFL)	24 Rosen, Julie A. (R)	41 Michel, Geoff (R)	58 Higgins, Linda (DFL)
07A Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	24A Gunther, Bob (R)	41A Erhardt, Ron (R)	58A Mullery, Joe (DFL)
07B Jaros, Mike (DFL)	24B Cornish, Tony (R)	41B Peterson, Neil W. (R)	58B Dominguez, Augustine "Willie" (DFL)
08 Lourey, Tony (DFL)	25 Dahle, Kevin (DFL)	42 Hann, David (R)	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence (DFL)
08A Hilty, Bill (DFL)	25A Brod, Laura (R)	42A Ruud, Maria (DFL)	59A Loeffler, Diane (DFL)
08B Faust, Tim (DFL)	25B Bly, David (DFL)	42B Paulsen, Erik (R)	59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)
09 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	26 Day, Dick (R)	43 Bonoff, Terri (DFL)	60 Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)
09A Lanning, Morrie (R)	26A Ruth, Connie (R)	43A Anderson, Sarah (R)	60A Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)
09B Marquart, Paul (DFL)	26B Fritz, Patti (DFL)	43B Benson, John (DFL)	60B Hornstein, Frank (DFL)
10 Skogen, Dan (DFL)	27 Sparks, Dan (DFL)	44 Latz, Ron (DFL)	61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)
10A Normes, Bud (R)	27A Brown, Robin (DFL)	44A Simon, Steve (DFL)	61A Clark, Karen (DFL)
10B Simpson, Dean (R)	27B Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)	44B Winkler, Ryan (DFL)	61B Walker, Neva (DFL)
11 Ingebrigtsen, Bill G. (R)	28 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	45 Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	62 Ray, Patricia Torres (DFL)
11A Westrom, Torrey (R)	28A Wollschlager, Sandy (DFL)	45A Peterson, Sandra (DFL)	62A Davnie, Jim (DFL)
11B Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	28B Draskowski, Steve (R)	45B Carlson, Lyndon (DFL)	62B Wagenius, Jean (DFL)
12 Koering, Paul E. (R)	29 Senjem, David H. (R)	46 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	63 Larson, Dan (DFL)
12A Ward, John (DFL)	29A Demmer, Randy (R)	46A Nelson, Michael (DFL)	63A Thissen, Paul (DFL)
12B Doty, Al (DFL)	29B Norton, Kim (DFL)	46B Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	63B Slocum, Linda (DFL)
13 Glimse, Joe (R)	30 Lynch, Ann (DFL)	47 Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)
13A Heidgerken, Bud (R)	30A Liebling, Tina (DFL)	47A Dittrich, Denise (DFL)	64A Murphy, Erin (DFL)
13B Juhnke, Al (DFL)	30B Welti, Andy (DFL)	47B Hortman, Melissa (DFL)	64B Paymar, Michael (DFL)
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	31 Erickson Ropes, Sharon L. (DFL)	48 Jungbauer, Michael J. (R)	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)
14A Severson, Dan (R)	31A Pelowski, Jr., Gene (DFL)	48A Hackbarth, Tom (R)	65A Thao, Cy (DFL)
14B Hosch, Larry (DFL)	31B Tschumper, Ken (DFL)	48B Abeler, Jim (R)	65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL)
15 Clark, Tarryl (DFL)	32 Limmer, Warren (R)	49 Johnson, Debbie J. (R)	66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)
15A Gottwalt, Steve (R)	32A Peppin, Joyce (R)	49A DeLaForest, Chris (R)	66A Lesch, John (DFL)
15B Haws, Larry (DFL)	32B Zellers, Kurt (R)	49B Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	66B Hausman, Alice (DFL)
16 Wergin, Betsy L. (R)	33 Olson, Gen (R)	50 Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	67 Moua, Mee (DFL)
16A Erickson, Sondra (R)	33A Smith, Steve (R)	50A Laine, Carolyn (DFL)	67A Mahoney, Tim (DFL)
16B Olson, Mark (R)	33B Berns, John (R)	50B Knuth, Kate (R)	67B Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)
17 Olseen, Rick E. (DFL)	34 Ortman, Julianne E. (R)	51 Betzold, Don (DFL)	
17A Eastlund, Rob (R)	34A Kohls, Paul (R)	51A Kranz, Scott (DFL)	
17B Kalin, Jeremy (DFL)	34B Hoppe, Joe (R)	51B Tillberry, Tom (DFL)	



# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Member and Position	Score	Member and Position	Score	Member and Position	Score
<b>House Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veteran Affairs Committee</b>		John Berns (R)	50%	Bob Gunther (R)	21%
Chair: Mary Ellen Otreba (DFL)	75%	Jim Davnie (DFL)	100%	Tom Hackbarth (R)	5%
Vice Chair: Tim Faust (DFL)	90%	Chris DeLaForest (R)	0%	Rick Hansen (DFL)	95%
Lead-R: Dean Urdahl (R)	20%	Augustine "Willie" Dominguez (DFL)	100%	Joe Hoppe (R)	20%
Robin Brown (DFL)	100%	Sheldon Johnson (DFL)	100%	Kate Knuth (DFL)	100%
Al Doty (DFL)	90%	Kate Knuth (DFL)	100%	Doug Magnus (R)	20%
Steve Draskowski (R)	0%	Tim Mahoney (DFL)	88%	Denny McNamara (R)	55%
Kent Eken (DFL)	90%	Joe Mullery (DFL)	100%	Frank Moe (DFL)	100%
Brad Finstad (R)	5%	Erik Paulsen (R)	37%	Aaron Peterson (DFL)	100%
Rod Hamilton (R)	30%	Aaron Peterson (DFL)	100%	Bev Scalze (DFL)	100%
Larry Hosch (DFL)	89%	Dean Simpson (R)	15%	Kathy Tingelstad (R)	80%
Al Juhnke (DFL)	80%	Tom Tillberry (DFL)	95%	ex-officio Lyndon Carlson (DFL)	100%
Terry Morrow (DFL)	100%	<b>House Environment &amp; Natural Resources Committee</b>		ex-officio Loren Solberg (DFL)	70%
Ron Shimanski (R)	0%	Chair: Kent Eken (DFL)	90%	<b>Senate Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Budget Division</b>	
<b>Senate Agriculture and Veterans</b>		Vice Chair: Rick Hansen (DFL)	95%	Chair: Ellen R. Anderson (DFL)	100%
Chair: Jim Vickerman (DFL)	88%	Lead-R: Tom Hackbarth (R)	5%	Vice Chair: Tom Saxhaug (DFL)	86%
Vice Chair: Sharon L. Erickson Ropes (DFL)	100%	Kathy Brynaert (DFL)	100%	Lead-R: Dennis R. Frederickson (R)	83%
Lead-R: Steve Dille (R)	71%	Tony Cornish (R)	35%	Thomas M. Bakk (DFL)	86%
Satveer S. Chaudhary (DFL)	80%	David Dill (DFL)	65%	Satveer S. Chaudhary (DFL)	80%
Joe Gimse (R)	63%	Paul Gardner (DFL)	95%	Steve Dille (R)	71%
David W. Hann (R)	13%	Joe Hoppe (R)	20%	David W. Hann (R)	13%
Bill Ingebrigtsen (R)	13%	Carlos Mariani (DFL)	100%	Gary W. Kubly (DFL)	100%
Paul E Koering (R)	57%	Denny McNamara (R)	55%	Pat Pariseau (R)	43%
Gary W. Kubly (DFL)	100%	Frank Moe (DFL)	100%	Sandy Rummel (DFL)	100%
Keith Langseth (DFL)	88%	Dave Olin (DFL)	65%	Patricia Torres Ray (DFL)	100%
Tony Lourey (DFL)	88%	Dennis Ozment (R)	65%	Jim Vickerman (DFL)	88%
Steve Murphy (DFL)	100%	Brita Sailer (DFL)	100%	<b>House Taxes Committee</b>	
Rod Skoe (DFL)	63%	Bev Scalze (DFL)	100%	Chair: Ann Lenzewski (DFL)	100%
Dan Skogen (DFL)	88%	Cy Thao (DFL)	95%	Vice Chair: Sandy Wollschlager (DFL)	74%
Betsy L. Wergin (R)	57%	Kathy Tingelstad (R)	80%	Lead-R: Dean Simpson (R)	15%
<b>Senate Business, Industry and Jobs Committee</b>		Jean Wagenius (DFL)	100%	Joe Atkins (DFL)	90%
Chair: James P. Metzen (DFL)	88%	<b>Senate Environment &amp; Natural Resources Committee</b>		Laura Brod (R)	22%
Vice Chair: Kathy L. Saltzman (DFL)	100%	Chair: Satveer S Chaudhary (DFL)	80%	Lyndon Carlson (DFL)	100%
Lead-R: Geoff Michel (R)	71%	Vice Chair: Dan Skogen (DFL)	88%	Jim Davnie (DFL)	100%
Tomas M. Bakk (DFL)	86%	Lead-R: Pat Pariseau (R)	43%	Chris DeLaForest (R)	0%
Terry E. Bonoff (DFL)	100%	Ellen R. Anderson (DFL)	100%	Randy Demmer (R)	25%
Jim Carlson (DFL)	88%	D. Scott Dibble (DFL)	100%	David Dill (DFL)	65%
Dick Day (R)	50%	Steve Dille (R)	71%	Ron Erhardt (R)	75%
Chris Gerlach (R)	38%	Dennis R. Frederickson (R)	83%	Debra Hilstrom (DFL)	95%
Joe Gimse (R)	63%	Bill G. Ingebrigtsen (R)	13%	Mike Jaros (DFL)	100%
Amy T. Koch (R)	38%	Gen Olson (R)	50%	Lyle Koenen (DFL)	70%
Ron Latz (DFL)	100%	Tom Saxhaug (DFL)	86%	Paul Kohls (R)	0%
Steve Murphy (DFL)	100%	Kathy Sheran (DFL)	100%	Morrie Lanning (R)	30%
Julie A. Rosen (R)	63%	Katie Sieben (DFL)	100%	John Lesch (DFL)	100%
Linda Scheid (DFL)	88%	LeRoy A. Stumpf (DFL)	86%	Tina Liebling (DFL)	100%
Rod Skoe (DFL)	63%	Jim Vickerman (DFL)	88%	Paul Marquart (DFL)	85%
Dan Sparks (DFL)	88%	<b>House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division Committee</b>		Joe Mullery (DFL)	100%
David J. Tomassoni (DFL)	75%	Chair: Jean Wagenius (DFL)	100%	Erik Paulsen (R)	37%
<b>House Commerce and Labor Committee</b>		Vice Chair: Al Doty (DFL)	90%	Tom Rukavina (DFL)	75%
Chair: Joe Atkins (DFL)	90%	Lead-R: DennisOzment (R)	65%	Loren Solberg (DFL)	70%
Vice Chair: Leon Lillie (DFL)	95%	Tom Anzelc (DFL)	85%	Cy Thao (DFL)	95%
Lead-R: Kurt Zellers (R)	0%	Karen Clark (DFL)	100%	Tom Tillberry (DFL)	95%
Sarah Anderson (R)	45%	David Dill (DFL)	65%	Kurt Zellers (R)	0%
Tom Anzelc (DFL)	85%	Kent Eken (DFL)	90%	<b>Senate Taxes Committee</b>	
		Paul Gardner (DFL)	95%	Chair: Thomas M. Bakk (DFL)	86%
				Vice Chair: Dan Larson (DFL)	100%

# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Member and Position	Score	Member and Position	Score	Member and Position	Score
Lead R: Julianne E. Ortman (R)	33%	Alice Hausman (DFL)	100%	Vice Chair: Jim Carlson (DFL)	88%
D. Scott Dibble (DFL)	100%	Mary Liz Holberg (R)	0%	Lead-R: Michael J. Jungbauer (R)	38%
Debbie J. Johnson (R)	50%	Frank Hornstein (DFL)	100%	Terri Bonoff (DFL)	100%
Keith Langseth (DFL)	88%	Melissa Hortman (DFL)	95%	Dick Day (R)	50%
Warren Limmer (R)	50%	Jeremy Kalin (DFL)	95%	D. Scott Dibble (DFL)	100%
John Marty (DFL)	100%	Shelley Madore (DFL)	95%	John P. Doll (DFL)	100%
Mee Moua (DFL)	100%	Sandra Masin (DFL)	100%	Michelle L. Fishbach (R)	63%
Lawrence P. Pogemiller (DFL)	88%	Will Morgan (DFL)	95%	Joe Gimse (R)	63%
David H. Senjem (R)	63%	Terry Morrow (DFL)	100%	Amy T. Koch (R)	38%
Katie Sieben (DFL)	100%	Michael V. Nelson (DFL)	90%	Keith Langseth (DFL)	88%
Rod Skoe (DFL)	63%	Connie Ruth (R)	21%	Dan Larson (DFL)	100%
<b>House Transportation Finance Division</b>		Dan Severson (R)	21%	Mee Moua (DFL)	100%
Chair: Bernhard Lieder (DFL)	90%	Linda Slocum (DFL)	100%	Rick E. Olseen (DFL)	88%
Vice Chair: Ron Erhardt (R)	75%	ex-officio Lyndon Carlson (DFL)	100%	Julianne E. Ortman (R)	33%
Lead-R: Doug Magnus (R)	20%	ex-officio Loren Solberg (DFL)	70%	Ann H. Rest (DFL)	100%
Michael Beard (R)	13%	<b>Senate Transportation Budget and Policy Division</b>		Kathy L. Saltzman (DFL)	100%
Al Doty (DFL)	90%	Chair: Steve Murphy (DFL)	100%	Katie Sieben (DFL)	100%
				Rod Skoe (DFL)	63%

*Duck banding with  
the Wetlands  
Committee*





### **MISSION**

To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment, and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Sierra Club, North Star Chapter  
2327 East Franklin Avenue #1  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406

Phone: 612-659-9124  
Fax: 612-659-9129

*[www.northstar.sierraclub.org](http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org)*