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MCEA NAMES KATHYRN HOFFMAN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Environmental attorney known for success in mining and energy

ST. PAUL, MINN., January 12, 2017 – The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy is pleased to announce that Kathryn Hoffman has been named as the new executive director, the MCEA Board of Directors announced today. Hoffman will lead a team of environmental attorneys, experts, and policy advocates who work to protect Minnesota’s environment and natural resources. She has been an attorney with MCEA for six years, most recently serving as the group’s Legal Director.

“Kathryn’s accomplishments with mining issues in northern Minnesota as well as her leadership in the successful Sandpiper Pipeline litigation reflect the type of tactical, thoughtful, and science-based approach to environmental protection and management she will bring as MCEA executive director,” Alan Thometz, chairman of the MCEA Board of Directors, said. As a MCEA attorney, Hoffman’s leadership has also helped build coalitions to protect important areas of the state including Lake Superior and the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

MCEA works to influence environmental law and policy in Minnesota by working with regulatory agencies and at the legislature. With a strong team of attorneys, the organization is also capable of pursuing litigation when necessary. Thometz added that Hoffman is an ideal choice to lead the organization because she understands what it means to be a lawyer for the state’s natural resources and she knows MCEA inside and out.

“I intend to help MCEA think bigger and work in new, innovative ways to resolve environmental challenges,” Hoffman said, describing her vision for the future of the organization. “MCEA has hundreds of donors who provide support so that we can be responsive to emerging issues. Protecting the environment is our top priority, now more than ever, she added. “Our organization is well-equipped with a talented, dedicated staff, supportive donors, and strategic partners to make it effective in today’s political environment.”

MCEA’s recent significant accomplishments include successfully:

- Advocating for closure of the largest coal-fired utility plants in the state;
- Supporting the Public Utilities Commission’s recommendation that Xcel Energy move forward with three new solar proposals, bringing solar power to an estimated 41,000 homes;
- Supporting the Governor’s “buffer initiative” in the 2016 legislative session;
- Challenging the environmental review of crude oil pipelines; and

- Challenging an outdated 30-year-old water-discharge permit that did not protect clean water for a mining operation.

Hoffman joined MCEA as a staff attorney in 2010, and her work has focused on mining and energy issues. She also served as legal director for the organization. Prior to joining MCEA, Hoffman was an attorney with the law firm of Zelle Hofmann Voelbel & Mason LLP.

She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School and holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy with a concentration in science, technology and the environment from the University of Minnesota's Humbert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

About the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

MCEA is a nonprofit organization that uses legal, legislative and scientific expertise to protect Minnesota's environment, its natural resources, and the health of all Minnesotans. Founded in 1974, MCEA advocates for sound environmental policies which provide positive, long-term solutions to the most critical environmental issues facing Minnesota. MCEA is the leading legal voice protecting Minnesota's environment, with deep organizational expertise that includes some of the foremost environmental law and policy professionals in the state.