



# **OPPOSE Environmental Degradation: VOTE NO ON HF1291(Fabian)/SF1087 (Ingebrigtsen)**

***HF 1291/SF 1087 weakens existing laws that protect our environment. It will result in more pollution.***

## **Lets polluters conduct their own Environmental Review**

This bill takes environmental review out of the hands of the public and the agency experts, and puts it in the hands of the polluters. The bill effectively eliminates meaningful environmental review, which is valuable because it:

- Promotes better projects that can meet existing standards and be permitted;
- Allows agency experts and the public to study the environmental impacts of big projects BEFORE it is too late and expensive to make common sense improvements; and
- Educates the public and gathers public input.

Under this bill, industries write their own environmental review. That adds harmful bias to a neutral process of identifying problems and solutions. Please don't turn away from 40 years of successful environmental review and its many benefits to the public, project proponents, and the environment.

## **Permits cannot be "one size fits all" and meet an arbitrary timeline**

Environmental permits are not all the same. Permits must be tailored to the project in order to be fair and do their jobs of protecting air and water. Permits are not "one size fits all," so it makes little sense to require that all permits be issued within an arbitrary 150 days. Further, agencies are already issuing the large majority of permits within the legislative streamlining targets.

It is simply bad policy to mandate that permits be granted within a certain time frame without reference to the context, the industry, the project, or the environmental resources at risk.

## **Retain the Many Benefits of the Environmental Quality Board**

No valid reason has been given to eliminate this collaborative state entity, which brings many benefits to Minnesotans, including:

- Bringing citizen members and state commissioners together to solve problems;
- Providing a forum for citizens to be heard regarding their environmental concerns; and
- Tackling complex problems that affect multiple state agencies, such as frac sand mining, climate change, thereby avoiding ongoing controversy and potential litigation.



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