

## NO FREE PASS FOR POLLUTION (SF 737)



### MCEA'S POSITION

#### Oppose this bill because it:

- Gives a free pass to those who discharge pollution into our lakes, rivers and streams
- The bill requires PCA to issue permits that could violate the Clean Water Act, and this creates uncertainty for permitted facilities
- Will delay work to clean up our waters, and increase the cost of the eventual clean-up.

### ACTION

**Vote NO to allow PCA to continue to do its job of preventing pollution from damaging our lakes, rivers and streams.**

### CONSEQUENCES OF SF 737

- This bill will allow polluters to discharge more pollution than is safe for Minnesota streams and lakes.
- Minnesota issues permits allowing sewage plants and industrial facilities to discharge pollution to streams and lakes, under federal law. At a minimum, these permits must include limits based on the technology installed at the facility.
- But when those limits aren't sufficient to keep our waters clean enough to fish in, swim in, and drink, the Clean Water Act also requires permits to include more protective limits.
- This bill exempts sewage plants and industrial facilities that discharge pollution from these more protective limits. If cities do not meet these limits, the waters are going to be more polluted, and may not be clean enough for fish to live in or humans to swim in.
- This bill creates uncertainty for municipal facilities and PCA.
- Any permit that fails to meet these basic requirements violates the Clean Water Act, making it more likely to be challenged in court, which increases uncertainty for permitted facilities.

### REJECT SF 737

**This bill delays water clean-up, and makes it more expensive.**

Preventing pollution from these sewage treatment plants is far cheaper than cleaning up waters after they become polluted.