

2014-05 MINNESOTA STATE SCHOOL TRUST LANDS

The state of Minnesota has 2,515,146 acres of state owned land designated as School Trust Lands whereby revenue generated from these lands is placed in a trust and the income from that trust is used to support all school districts in the state.

Certain parcels of these lands provide important environmental benefits to the public such as undeveloped lakeshore and old growth forests and recreation on state trust fund lands in the form of hunting, trail hiking and riding, and public water access contribute to the local economy.

Recent legislation has mandated that revenue generation for the School Trust be the primary purpose for these lands in compliance with Minnesota's constitution (2010 Minnesota Statutes 127A.31 Goal of the Permanent School Fund).

If said parcels of public School Trust Lands are sold to private entities in order to meet the mandate, or environmental values are eliminated to produce other types of income, there will be a significant loss of environmental benefits as well as a loss of public recreation lands for the citizens of Minnesota.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League, in convention on April 26, 2014, urges the Minnesota State Legislature to devise and support a plan to retain all shore land, and other State Trust Fund Lands that have significant environmental and recreational benefits to the general public and local economy, through purchase, land exchange, conservation easements, and/or other methods.

*Submitted by:
The Grand Rapids Wes Libbey Chapter*