



2/4/2023

Hello Representative or Senator _____,

I am writing you to request your assistance in preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species into Minnesota lakes, rivers, and waters. These nasty species can ruin the lake or water where Minnesotans go to fish, play, swim, and boat. They can plug up motors; cut kids feet, arms, or backs as they attach themselves to boat and dock surfaces that are in the water. Simply, they can ruin our Minnesota lake enjoyment and we all need to do something to prevent it's spread.

Boat landing inspection has been shown to be the best way to prevent the spread of AIS but the number of boat landing inspection hours across our state is seeing a significant decrease. The root cause of this loss is inflationary cost increases. Just like other costs across the state the hourly cost of the inspector has gone up. While Boat inspectors' cost have risen and the AIS boat landing funding from the state is fixed so there will be a decrease in inspection hours in 2023 if we don't do something about it.

We need the state to pass legislation to make sure that our Minnesota lakes are protected from the reality of AIS spread, which will happen if left unchecked. As I am sure you are aware, once AIS is in a lake it is very hard to remove. We cannot risk that possibility in an industry that employees 27,000 people and generates \$4.2 billion in revenue. Minnesota fishing licenses alone bring in over \$30 million in revenue to the state.

I am asking you to support and find ways to increase the funding of AIS prevention across the state as soon as possible and, index that funding to inflationary costs. The future of our lakes depends upon our legislature doing so. I thank you ahead of time for your support.

Your Name and address