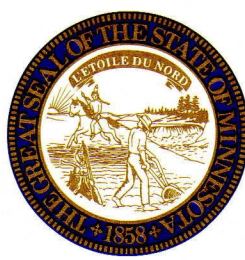


Kent Eken
State Representative



Minnesota House of Representatives

District 2A
Becker, Clearwater, Mahnomon,
Norman and Polk Counties

April 13, 2010

Paul Stolen
37603 370th Ave SE
Fosston, MN 56542-9361

Dear Paul:

Thank you for contacting me with the Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals' (MACP) advice on House File 2084, which would review the state's environmental and natural resources structure and delivery of services. I appreciate your sharing the group's thoughts.

The membership and structure of a potential advisory committee to improve the administration of the state's environmental and natural resources policy is crucial to its success. As you stated there are many qualified people that such a committee should hear from and would make great members. The professional groups you mentioned would bring an interesting point of view, especially their hands on experience with many of the likely topics.

One of the things I am still mulling over is what is the best number of members and structure? I do not want it to be too big so it becomes too unwieldy, but would still like to include diverse opinions and experiences. There are tens of, possibly over a hundred, groups and individuals that would like a seat on the committee. Also, to increase the buy-in by the agencies likely modified and the legislators who would need to make the changes; their involvement would also be constructive.

I am still trying to find that perfect balance so the advisory committee produces a worthwhile product that we can use at the Legislature (ideally in time for the next budget cycle). As you know there are too many reports that are written, which only end up sitting on a shelf. I do not want folks to go through this process if that is the likely result of their hard work.

