

Tell Us What You Think

Greetings,

MSRPO is the only citizens group with a lobbyist dedicated to representing shoreline and family forest or hunting land owners at the state capitol. Everyday members write in with problems or concerns, and ask us to address issues that are impacting them on their seasonal properties. Our resources are limited (if you are not now a member of MSRPO, [JOIN TODAY](#)) so it has never been more important for us to [know what is important](#) to **YOU**, a cabin or hunting land owner in Minnesota.

Take the [MSRPO SURVEY](#). Let us know what is important to you. We need to know what you think so we can address these concerns more effectively. MSRPO is a grassroots organization, and we must be directed by the people in the state we serve; those who own cabins, hunting shacks, and forest land in Minnesota. [Click here](#) to take the survey. It takes less than five minutes.

This session we pushed legislation that:

- Protected seasonal owners from targeted tax increases
- Increased penalties for transporting Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
- Removed cabins and hunting shacks on national forests (they don't own the land, but were being forced to pay property tax anyway) from the property tax included in both House and Senate Omnibus Tax Bills.
- Stopped the construction of public boat ramps on lakes that don't have them until an AIS plan is developed
- We successfully blocked a bill that would have prevented cabin or hunting shack owners from renting out their properties for even one night.

It was a very busy session.

In addition, however, seasonal owners have written to us with concerns about Conservation Easement practices, plans to provide incentives for private land owners to open their land to public hunting, ATV issues, rules concerning shoreline standards and dock sizes, plans and policies to redesign the State and Local Fiscal System, issues relating to the regulation of local utility companies, lawsuits being filed against local school districts for nefarious referendum votes, planned expansion of sulfide mining operations in northern Minnesota, and the encroachment on private lands of hiking and snowmobile trails, to name a few.

What is clear is that this recent economic downturn has left a vacuum. Many non-profit advocacy groups have either had to close up shop or let go of their lobbyist, and

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without a constant presence at the state capitol, a constituency has very little voice. The old adage that "the world is run by those who show up," is certainly true in Saint Paul.

MSRPO is the last group with a constant, professional lobbying presence at the Capitol to represent forest, lake shore and hunting land owners. Families like ours own 43 percent of the forest land in the state -- we are the major stake-holders in so many issues relating to forest health, taxation and clean water. As other organizations have dropped away or cut back, people are turning to MSRPO to take the lead in these areas.

We must look at our mission, and come up with a strategic plan on how to meet these changing responsibilities. The first step is to find out [WHAT YOU THINK](#) so that we can serve you best.

Sincerely,



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