

# 2018 POLICIES

## Natural Resources

Protection of our natural resources is a vital component of economic development and prosperity in Minnesota. Sustainable management of our resources will allow Minnesota's businesses to remain competitive in a global economy. Mining, forestry and agriculture all are important sectors of Minnesota's diverse economy and should be encouraged to grow under sensible government regulations.

### OUR GOALS

Minnesota's natural resource-based industries are challenged by a highly competitive international market. Regulations regarding mining, agriculture and forestry should be transparent, accountable and sustainable. Any new proposed rules and regulations should also be based on comprehensive information, sound scientific evidence, and avoid creating unnecessary red tape and duplication. All policies must allow Minnesota businesses to pursue new opportunities and technologies, thereby remaining competitive in the global economy.

### OUR KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2018 SESSION INCLUDE:

- Ensure fair and reasonable regulation of the nonferrous mining industry.
- Provide adequate funding for agriculture-related disease research and epidemic management.
- Continue our leadership and promote efficiency and streamlining of the environmental review and permitting process, while also finding alternatives for project proposers--all while protecting the natural resources of the state. Support science-based programs and regulations that are subject to legislative oversight.

### ENSURE FAIR MINING REGULATIONS AND COMPETITIVENESS

Mining regulations should support existing state policy that promotes diversification of the state's mineral economy, including support for exploration, evaluation, research and development, production and commercialization. Providing products demanded by the international marketplace, with our current regulatory safeguards, benefits both Minnesota's and the global economy. Ferrous mining in Minnesota ranks third in the nation for employment, labor income and contribution to GDP. In regard to nonferrous mining, Minnesota has the second largest copper deposit in the world, as well as the third largest nickel deposit in the world.

### MODERNIZE ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Livestock, dairy and crop producers contribute substantially to the state's economy. Minnesota leads the nation in turkey production, is first in sugar beet production, second in pork production, eighth in milk production and 12th in egg production. The industry should be allowed to modernize and grow to add value to the state agriculture producers and processors. Industry regulations should be clear and concise in regard to water and land applications. Adequate funding must also be provided for agriculture-related research and development regarding disease control.

### PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST PRODUCTS

One of the top manufacturing industries in the state, forest products are a vital component of Minnesota's economy. The forest industry provides more than 28,000 jobs with a payroll in excess of \$1.5 billion. We must consider adequate management of timber resources; sustainable management practices on state, federal and county land; and tax policies that recognize and support the long-term nature of owning and managing private forest lands. ■