



Support SF 672/HF 766 to increase transparency and give local governments a voice

The Impaired Waters List drives enforcement and pollution control measures. Ensuring its accuracy is essential so that limited state and local resources can focus on cost-effective pollution control and clean-up.

SF 672/766 ensures transparency and appropriate scrutiny of decisions that can have multi-million-dollar impacts by:

- Allowing 60 days, rather than 30, for the public to comment on proposed impairments.
- Allowing a challenge to be raised if there is a serious concern about a proposed impairment, such as failure to reflect recent infrastructure investments and documented pollution reductions.



National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES, a.k.a. wastewater discharge) permits govern whether a community needs to rebuild or upgrade its water treatment infrastructure. If a city is required to spend millions to make upgrades, it should be allowed sufficient time to analyze and work through the permit with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

SF 672/766 would give local governments a stronger voice in the permit process by:

- Allowing time before the notice goes public for the city to analyze changes that may be happening, review the underlying scientific data and determine how it might comply.
- Allowing all parties an additional 30 days of public notice to comment and raise questions.

This additional time at the front and back end of the NPDES process is crucial for cities—particularly smaller ones whose councils meet infrequently. This allows ample time for cities to seek assistance to assess and understand the MPCA's proposals.