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October 30, 2017

Rep. Bob Dettmer
565 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Dettmer:

Thanks for all you are doing to make our State a better place. Governor Dayton's clean water pledge, including a 25% improvement in the water quality of Minnesota lakes and rivers by 2025, is a commendable goal that I fully support, as a life-long, lake-loving resident of the Twin Cities.

After carefully reviewing the related findings of the Minnesota DNR, Carnelian Marine Saint Croix Watershed District, and respected scientists engaged to study the impact of trout stocking on Square Lake water quality, I respectfully disagreed with the DNR's controversial decision to stock 3000 Rainbow Trout yearlings in Square Lake in the spring of 2017. We were therefore pleased to receive the news on April 21, 2017 from Brad Parsons, MN DNR Central Region Fisheries Manager, that the DNR "will not stock trout into Square Lake this spring."

In that context, as a Square Lake homeowner, I fully support the **continuation of the trout stocking moratorium** on Square Lake and respectfully request the support of your Office in continuing the Square Lake trout stocking moratorium in 2018 and beyond.

As referenced in the numerous reports that have been shared with our Square Lake Association, the science is clear and compelling: **The presence of Rainbow Trout has a direct detrimental impact on Square Lake water quality.**

I have personally observed the diminution of water quality, as a multi-decade Square Lake homeowner.

I fully concur with the scientific assessment and experiential usage observations relating to the cause and effect relationship between trout stocking and diminished water clarity, as expertly advanced by Square Lake homeowner and Association President [Scott Alexander](#) on the subject:

- 1) The previous pristine water quality of Square Lake has been severely diminished by trout stocking, and the unjustified, short-sighted renewal of trout stocking by MN DNR will negatively impact the desirability of Square Lake as a destination of choice for visitors from the local and metropolitan communities served by the Lake.
- 2) The Lake is used and enjoyed by far more diverse constituencies than the "25 to 50 trout fishermen per year" who the DNR claims are voicing resistance to the moratorium. The diverse users of the Lake include thousands of swimmers; water skiers; paddle boarders; and canoe, kayak, sailing, and powerboat users; who rely on the Lake for its unique reputation for pristine water clarity.
- 3) One of those relevant constituencies, scuba divers, will be forced to use other lakes in Minnesota and Wisconsin, where water clarity has been preserved.
- 4) The conflict between trout fisherman anchored in deep water, and power boat users who also use the same areas of Square Lake deep water, will be resumed, if Rainbow Trout stocking occurs, thus negatively impacting the water-use experiences of both constituencies.

- 5) Trout fishing will also increase the risk of invasive species in Square Lake, as trout fisherman commonly travel from one trout lake to another, to satisfy their trout fishing objectives.
- 6) The research study by [Dr. Leif Hembre](#) from Hamline University (2016) strongly suggests that stocking trout in Square Lake has a detrimental effect on water clarity.
- 7) The Metropolitan Council has said that Square Lake's highest value is its pristine waters. Keeping Square Lake clear should be the highest lake management priority for the DNR and all of the other agencies who value its unique attributes.

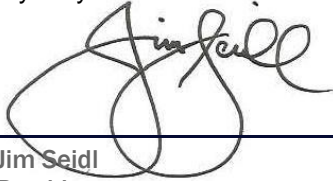
In summary:

- 1) Square Lake is a unique jewel of pristine water clarity in the 7-county Metropolitan area.
- 2) Both scientists and lake residents have observed, studied, and proven the negative impact of Rainbow Trout stocking on Square Lake water quality. No ifs, ands, or buts. Trout have a detrimental impact on water clarity.
- 3) The many diverse users of Square Lake who enjoy the Lake because of its pristine water, far exceed the number of trout fisherman who are objecting to the trout stocking moratorium.
- 4) The reason the DNR agreed to the moratorium in 2012 was because the water clarity of Square Lake was declining to the point where trout were no longer sustainable in the Lake. It will happen again if the DNR fails to apply science and common sense in preservation of the Lake.

From 1984 to 1996 I was a Square Lake homeowner, residing at 14785 Ostlund Trail North, May Township, Marine on St. Croix, MN 55407. During that time I served on the May Township Planning Commission, the May Township Board of Supervisors, and was President of the Square Lake Homeowners Association. In 2006, I co-constructed a new residence on the property I previously owned, and a few years ago acquired the adjacent lake-site property formerly owned by neighbor Floyd Johnson. My ties to the lake are long-term and deep.

My bio can be accessed at [Legal Research Center](#).

My very best wishes.



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