September 13 2013

19560 68th St NE

New London MN

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

I write in regard to the Lessard-Sams grant proposed by MN COLA. As a member of the Kandiyohi County AIS task force, a working group to keep AIS, and particularly Zebra Mussels, from our county lakes I urge you to recommend to the MN Legislature the funding as MN COLA requests.

Kandiyohi County has a vigorous inspection program that is limited in its scope to conduct comprehensive inspections and decontaminations due to lack of funding. This is true of many counties. We have invested to the level that we can for AIS inspection and containment. And we have proven that we are willing to accept the delegation of authority to continue to work towards this end. The proposed funding will allow counties across the state to continue to fight to keep lakes free from invasive species.

"If you go to the website (<http://www.lsohc.leg.mn>) you will find the following statement:  "The Outdoor Heritage Fund, one of four funds created by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, receives one-third of the money raised by the tax increase. The council ensures recommendations that are consistent with the Constitution and state law and that take into consideration the outcomes of, including, but not limited to, the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie.

The citizens of the State have spoken with their vote to protect our waters. And the Department of Natural Resources has on many occasions, stated that they wish to work with local units of government on AIS protection. It is up to you to make the recommendation to the legislature so the local units of government can do just that. Please make this recommendation to the Legislature which will provide 25.2 million dollars to assist local units of government to continue the fight against these invasive species.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger R Imdieke

Kandiyohi County Commissioner