

Bolster MPCA's ability to defend decisions



Additional legal capacity will strengthen the MPCA's ability to protect human health and the environment.

Challenge

In carrying out its regulatory responsibilities, the MPCA must make difficult and sometimes controversial decisions on complex issues that involve community partners, organizations, regulated partners and residents. These decisions often face legal challenge.

The number of legal challenges has increased in recent years and defending the agency's work in court is costly.

Why it's important

To successfully fulfill the agency's mission to protect human health and the environment, the MPCA must be able to adequately defend agency decisions. MPCA hires outside counsel to fill staffing gaps or provide technical expertise that may not exist in-house.

Proposal

\$5.5 million

Governor Walz recommends an appropriation of \$5.5 million to support legal costs associated with contested decisions by the MPCA such as:

- Staff and in-house legal counsel
- Outside legal counsel
- Attorney General's Office fees
- Office of Administrative Hearings costs
- Records management



Tom Johnson
Government Relations Director
tom.e.johnson@state.mn.us
651-338-8955

Alexis Donath
Legislative Coordinator
alexis.donath@state.mn.us
651-373-9277