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Chair Tom Bakk, Senate Capital Investment Committee
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
328 Capitol Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 4413

April 5, 2022

Chair Bakk and members of the Capital Investment Committee:

As the committee considers the Governor's bonding proposal in SF4413, we write to highlight proposed investments under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) across the Governor's proposals that The Nature Conservancy considers timely opportunities to invest in natural infrastructure through bonding. Many of these proposals correspond with bills that have already been introduced by Senate members.

Department of Natural Resources

- **Reforestation** under *Acquisition and Betterment of Public Lands* (included in SF977 introduced by Sen. Senjem at \$5 million)
- **Protection of private forestland** under *Acquisition and Betterment of Public Lands* (included in SF977 introduced by Sen. Senjem, Forests for the Future at \$5 million)
- **Badoura State Forest Nursery upgrades** under the *Betterment of Buildings* request (included in SF977 introduced by Sen. Senjem at \$5 million)
- **Forest stand improvement** under *Acquisition and Betterment of Public Lands*
- **Community tree planting** (included in SF956 introduced by Sen. Senjem at \$16 million)

Investments in the state's forests, forest health, and tree cover would yield benefits to water, habitat, air quality, stormwater retention, and improved human health outcomes, in additions to economic benefits related to forest products and outdoor recreation and tourism.

Board of Water and Soil Resources

- **Water quality and storage** (included in SF3530 introduced by Sen. Weber at \$10 million)
- **Conservation lands protection** (included in SF3530 introduced by Sen. Weber at \$3 million for Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) working lands and \$5 million from RIM working floodplains; included in SF3020 introduced by Sen. Ingebrigtsen at \$5 million from general fund)

Research conducted by The Nature Conservancy shows that investing \$1 today in water storage and floodplain protection provides \$5 savings from avoided flood damage.

Thank you for your consideration of investments that would benefit forests and working lands.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla
Government Relations Manager, The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota