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Chair Bill Ingebrigtsen
Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee
95 University Avenue W.
3207 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 4139

Dear Chair Ingebrigtsen and Committee members:

March 21, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SF4139, which would direct \$1 million in general funds to the Department of Natural Resources for an enhanced forest inventory of state, county, and private lands. These investments will provide more accurate data and a better image of current forest coverage across the state.

Science tells us that the number one natural infrastructure tool in Minnesota is our forests, which clean our water and our air in addition to many other benefits. An enhanced forest inventory will provide more accurate data while also providing a better understanding of the state's forest assets; this in turn can help guide strategic management of forest lands.

It is imperative we strategically invest in one of the state's best assets: trees. The Nature Conservancy recognizes there are many tools in the toolbox to sustain and grow the health of our forests and working lands by using a right-fit approach for each type of landowner and landscape. We encourage the legislature to consider investments in an enhanced forest inventory alongside investments in the Badoura State Forest Nursery, reforestation, Forests for the Future, community tree planting, and private forest management.

Thank you for your consideration of SF4139.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla
Government Relations Manager
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota