

1.1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 2973 as follows:

1.2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.3 "Section 1. **[88.83] EMERALD ASH BORER RESPONSE.**

1.4 Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** The legislature finds that an epidemic of an invasive plant pest,
1.5 the emerald ash borer, is occurring in Minnesota, threatening the natural environment, and
1.6 generating large volumes of wood waste from ash trees. Immediate action is therefore
1.7 necessary to provide funding to assist local units of government with removing and replacing
1.8 ash trees in response to emerald ash borer infections and managing the resulting wood waste,
1.9 and to preserve existing biomass energy infrastructure that is critical to support local and
1.10 regional emerald ash borer response programs.

1.11 Subd. 2. **Establishment.** The commissioner must establish a program to:

1.12 (1) provide state matching grants to assist communities with removing and replacing
1.13 ash trees in response to the emerald ash borer epidemic and managing wood waste, including
1.14 the remains of ash trees removed in response to the epidemic; and

1.15 (2) identify and designate existing biomass energy facilities that are critical infrastructure
1.16 for local and regional emerald ash borer response programs.

1.17 Subd. 3. **Eligible applicants.** The commissioner may award grants under this section
1.18 to:

1.19 (1) local units of government, including cities, counties, regional authorities, joint powers
1.20 boards, towns, and parks and recreation boards in cities of the first class that are responding
1.21 or actively preparing to respond to an emerald ash borer infestation; and

1.22 (2) a Minnesota nonprofit corporation that owns a cogeneration facility that serves a St.
1.23 Paul district heating and cooling system.

1.24 Subd. 4. **Eligible expenditures.** Local units of government are eligible for matching
1.25 grants of up to 50 percent of costs incurred to properly manage, transport, process, and
1.26 dispose of wood waste containing ash tree material, including reuse and higher-value
1.27 applications, wood waste storage yards, and costs associated with processing wood waste
1.28 into usable biomass fuel and transporting it to designated biomass energy facilities. A
1.29 Minnesota nonprofit corporation that owns a biomass-fueled combined heat and power plant
1.30 serving a district heating system is eligible for grants of \$20 per ton of processed biomass
1.31 fuel containing wood waste from ash trees processed in response to the emerald ash borer
1.32 epidemic.

2.1 Subd. 5. Reporting A nonprofit corporation receiving a grant under this section must
2.2 compile a quarterly report on the volume of wood waste utilized as fuel at the facility using
2.3 the same method used to compile the annual utilization of wood fuel for the Pollution Control
2.4 Agency's annual emission inventory report required under Minnesota Rules, part 7019.3000,
2.5 and submit the information to the commissioner every three months beginning 120 days
2.6 after the nonprofit corporation is eligible to receive grants.

2.7 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.

2.8 \$40,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
2.9 of natural resources for purposes of Minnesota Statutes, section 88.83. This is a onetime
2.10 appropriation and is available until June 30, 2030. The commissioner may use up to two
2.11 percent of this appropriation to administer section 1. Of this amount:

2.12 (1) \$5,000,000 is for grants to local units of government responding or actively preparing
2.13 to respond to an emerald ash borer infestation; and

2.14 (2) \$35,000,000 is for grants to a Minnesota nonprofit corporation that owns a
2.15 cogeneration facility that serves a St. Paul district heating and cooling system."

2.16 Amend the title accordingly