



The Nature Conservancy in
Minnesota, North Dakota, South
Dakota
1101 West River Parkway, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1291

tel (612) 331.0700
fax (612) 331.0770
nature.org

Senator Foug Hawj
3231 Minnesota Senate Building
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
95 University Ave W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 13, 2023

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee,

As the Committee reviews the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Natural Resources, we write to share our support for proposed investments in programs that will benefit people and nature across the state. We are particularly pleased to see these proposed appropriations:

- \$3,000,000 for Planting Tomorrow's Forests Today (Reforestation)
- \$15,196,000 for Enhancing Community Forests through MN ReLeaf
- \$400,000 ongoing for Accelerated Tree Seed Collection
- \$400,000 ongoing for Protecting and Managing Water Resources
- \$3,000,000 and \$1,000,000 ongoing for Investing in Minnesota's Wildlife and Aquatic Management Areas
- \$10,000,000 for Enhancing Grasslands and Restoring Wetlands on Wildlife Management Areas for Carbon Capture and Resiliency
- \$1,566,000 for Protect and Restore Carbon Storage in State-Administered Peatlands

These programs provide multiple benefits that touch all Minnesotans' lives, including carbon sequestration, water quality improvements, water quantity benefits, resiliency including flood mitigation, air quality improvements, outdoor recreation opportunities, habitat and more.

As this committee considers investments that can address climate change and make Minnesota more resilient, we encourage you to include these investments among a suite of other natural climate solutions.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla
Government Relations Director
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota

Molly Jansen
Government Relations Specialist
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota