



The Nature Conservancy in
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Senator Founj Hawj
3231 Minnesota Senate Building
House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
95 University Ave W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 23, 2023

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

As the Committee reviews the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, and Board of Water and Soil Resources contained in SF2438, we write to share our support for proposed general fund investments in programs that will benefit people and nature across the state. We are particularly pleased to see these proposed appropriations:

Department of Natural Resources (DNR):

- \$3,000,000 and \$1,500,000 each year for Planting Tomorrow's Forests Today (Reforestation)
- \$15,196,000 and \$402,000 each year for Enhancing Community Forests through MN ReLeaf
- \$4,172,000 and \$1,032,000 each year for Private Forest Landowner Technical Assistance, Cost Share and Inventory
- \$400,000 each year for Accelerated Tree Seed Collection
- \$3,000,000 and \$1,000,000 each year 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

Pollution Control Agency (MPCA):

- \$173,880,000 one-time and \$1,120,000 ongoing per year investments for Resilient Communities Grants and Technical Assistance

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR):

- \$17,000,000 one-time and \$480,000 ongoing per year for Accelerated Water Storage and Treatment (BWSR)
- \$13,580,000 ongoing per year for Accelerated Soil Health Practices (BWSR)
- \$9,000,000 one-time and \$1,000,000 ongoing per year for the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (BWSR)



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- \$22,000,000 one-time and \$400,000 ongoing per year for Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Grasslands/Working Lands Easement Program (BWSR)
- \$15,000,000 one-time and \$710,000 ongoing per year for RIM Peatlands Easement Program (BWSR)
- \$7,100,000 one-time and \$480,000 ongoing per year for Climate Mitigation and Resiliency for RIM Easements (BWSR)

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
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