



MINNESOTA FOREST INDUSTRIES

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March 9, 2023

Senator John Marty  
3235 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: HF669 - Minnesota DNR Portion of Capital Investments Bill**

Dear Senator Marty and Senate Finance Committee Members:

Minnesota Forest Industries, Inc. (MFI) is an association representing Minnesota's primary forest product companies. MFI and its member companies encourage conservation, proper forest management, and industry development that foster sound environmental stewardship, multiple use of timber lands, and sustainable, long-term timber supply. MFI members are part of a forest products industry which contributes \$16.8 billion to Minnesota's economy and provides nearly 68,000 jobs.

Thank you for considering the natural resources provisions in House File 669, which would address capital investment backlogs from the prior legislative session. We are specifically supportive of general obligation bonds for the following programs:

- **\$6 million to Reforestation Under DNR's Betterment of Public Lands** - Reforestation is a critical component of proper forest management and contributes to reducing atmospheric carbon. Funding for reforestation has historically come from bonding, reflecting the long-term investment in a state resource. There is a dire need to fund a backlog of reforestation activities as well as future actions.
- **\$10 million Directed to the State Nursery Under Betterment of Buildings**. The Badoura State Nursery was built in the 1970s and has had few investments since. The aging equipment, facilities and technology is inadequate to meet the needs of the state. We need to make a significant investment in the nursery in order to meet the current and future demand for stock to increase forest cover in Minnesota. This will help the state meet demands ranging from increasing need for wood products to increasing carbon absorption.

We ask that you maintain these provisions in the bill moving forward.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rick Horton  
Executive Vice President  
Minnesota Forest Industries

Cc: DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen