



## Minnesota Timber Producers Association

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

March 9, 2023

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

Dear Senator Marty and Senate Finance Committee Members:

The Minnesota Timber Producers Association (MTPA) is a trade association representing loggers, truckers, sawmills, and allied businesses in our state. MTPA members are part of a \$16.8 billion per year forest products industry which provides livelihoods for more than 68,000 Minnesota families. Our members are directly impacted by decisions regarding forest management funding.

Thank you for considering critical needs of Minnesota's forests included HF 2310, including:

- **\$6 million for 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 has had few investments since it was built more than fifty years ago. The aging equipment, facilities, and technology is inadequate to meet the needs of the state. Significant investment is needed to meet the current and future demand for stock to increase forest cover in Minnesota, helping Minnesota to meet demands, including the increasing need for wood products and also increasing carbon absorption.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ray Higgins  
Executive Vice President

CC: DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen