

Chair Hawj and Committee Members:

Please amend SF 3631, Article 3, Sections 13 and 14 to be consistent with what wild plant populations are created to do. Vascular plants are rooted on real property and potentially grow large or become hazardous. Facilitating reproduction and providing an adequate gene-pool should be an objective of rare species management, which would be reflected in Minnesota Statutes 84.0895, not criminalized.

Is there even a third way! Say someone has an endangered or threatened tree in their yard. To prevent the wind (or squirrels) from “releasing” the seeds would require climbing and somehow picking these before they fall. It is impractical. Say a person did that, then what would they do with the seed? Disposing of them or eating those that are edible would be a “taking”. What else do you propose?

I believe that the changes risk application problems and would put a huge (and unnecessary) burden on the legal system.

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