



# Friends of Minnesota Scientific & Natural Areas

A Minnesota Non-profit, Tax-exempt Corporation  
[www.snafriends.org](http://www.snafriends.org)

March 11, 2025

Via e-mail only

Senator Fong Hawj, Chair, and  
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee

Re: SF 1464 – MN Sustainable Foraging Task Force: **Request for Two Amendments**  
For Committee Hearing, Thursday, March 13, 2025

Dear Chair Hawj and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SF 1464, which would establish the Minnesota Sustainable Foraging Task Force.

Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas is a Minnesota non-profit, tax exempt corporation whose mission is to advocate for the establishment, use, management, and perpetuation of Minnesota's scientific and natural areas in an undisturbed natural state.

Our mission is consistent with the legal purpose – and administrative requirements - of the scientific and natural areas program:

“State scientific and natural areas; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration; designation. (a) A state scientific and natural area shall be established **to protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural** state those natural features which possess exceptional scientific or educational value.”  
[Minn. Stat. 86A.05, Subd. 5(a). Emphasis added.]

"State scientific and natural areas **shall** be administered ... in a manner consistent with the purposes of this subdivision to preserve, perpetuate, and **protect** from **unnatural** influences the scientific and educational resources within them."  
[Minn. Stat. 86A.05, Subd. 5(c). Emphasis added.]

Therefore, **state law does not allow foraging on scientific and natural areas.**

### Amendment #1

Based on the statutory requirements stated above, **we respectfully request that state scientific and natural areas be exempted from the bill** - by adopting the following amendment on lines 1.6 to 1.10:

“Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of natural resources must establish the Minnesota Sustainable Foraging Task Force to develop scientifically sound, data-driven recommendations for foraging regulations on state lands, **except for state scientific and natural areas,** that balance the need for ecological sustainability with the right of Minnesotans to enjoy the state's bountiful natural resources through foraging.”

### Amendment #2

We are supportive of language in the bill to “... develop scientifically sound, data-driven recommendations for foraging regulations on state lands ...”

However, we share the concern that the present language, on lines 2.19 to 2.21 of the bill, would allow the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources until the data supports otherwise. Therefore, instead, under the concept of the precautionary principle, **we respectfully request the following amendment to lines 2.19 to 2.21:**

“3) develop recommendations for science-based, data-driven foraging guidelines for state lands that balance public access with conservation needs, ~~setting limits on~~ **allowing** foraging activities only where supported by data ...”

On behalf of Friends of MN Scientific and Natural Areas, I **thank you** for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

*Thomas E. Casey*

Thomas E. Casey, Board Chair  
Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas, Inc.

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TEC/tc

**The following organizations have signed onto this letter:**

Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota Division

Minnesota Native Plant Society

Pollinator Friendly Alliance

