



MINNESOTA FOREST INDUSTRIES

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April 9, 2025

Senator Founj Hawj  
Chair, Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3231  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hawj:

Minnesota Forest Industries (MFI) appreciates the work you and your committee members have put into the Senate Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Budget and Policy Bill (Senate File 2077). We support the operating adjustments for DNR Forestry Division and the Minnesota Forest Resources Council. We also support the forestry-related Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) recommendations for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations.

However, we are concerned about the General Fund reductions to funding DNR's Private Landowner Technical Assistance program. The DNR Private Forest Management (PFM) program provides landowners with technical assistance, forest management plans, and cost-share assistance for activities like tree planting, preventing deer damage, thinning, and other practices. Private landowners control 42% of the state's forests, but they require this level of assistance to maintain healthy forests, produce fiber for our industry, and manage their forests for climate benefits.

We urge the Committee to consider retaining full funding for the Private Landowner Technical Assistance program.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important bill.

Executive Vice President  
Minnesota Forest Industries