

April 24, 2025

Senator Ann H. Rest Senate Taxes Committee 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Rest and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Forestry Association ("MFA") was founded in 1876, we are the nation's first forestry association and the oldest conservation organization in Minnesota. Our goal is to be a valuable resource for Minnesota's more than 200,000 private woodland owners. In addition to woodland owners, our constituents include foresters, loggers, educators, businesses, sportsmen/women, conservation organizations, and concerned citizens.

We are writing today in strong support of Senate File S.F. 1633 and urge the Committee to include this important bill in your omnibus tax bill. Tax Classification 2c for Managed Forest Lands is a vital tool to help preserve our state's forests by providing a reduced class rate to forested property that is subject to a forest management plan. Senator Hauschild's S.F. 1633 would provide much needed clarity by confirming that property can be eligible for 2c Classification when it also has a conservation easement. This bill would align the understanding that assessors have long recognized by allowing conserved property to also be enrolled in the 2c classification. We believe providing multiple incentives necessary to achieve societal goals in a useful approach and think this bill provides the clarity necessary to move forward with confidence.

MFA urges the committee's support of S.F. 1633.

Sincerely,

Brian Huberty

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President – Minnesota Forestry Association

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