



American Forest & Paper Association

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Sandra Pappas
Senate Capital Investment Committee
Room 1100 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

RE: Support for SF 4528 - Forests and forestry capital projects appropriation and bond issuance authorization

Dear Committee Chair Pappas, Vice Chair Pha, Ranking Minority Member Housley and Members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee,

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) encourages support for SF 4528 for forests and forestry capital projects appropriation and bond issuance authorization on behalf of our members and their employees who are an integral part of the circular forest products economy.

Introduction to AF&PA

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) serves to advance public policies that foster economic growth, job creation and global competitiveness for a vital sector that makes the essential paper and packaging products Americans use every day. The U.S. forest products industry employs more than 925,000 people, largely in rural America, and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 44 states. Our industry accounts for approximately 4.7% of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufacturing more than \$435 billion in products annually. AF&PA member companies are significant producers and users of renewable biomass energy and are committed to making sustainable products for a sustainable future through the industry's decades-long initiative — [*Better Practices, Better Planet 2030*](#).

In Minnesota, the industry employs more than 23,000 individuals, with an annual payroll of over \$1.7 billion. The estimated state and local taxes paid by the forest products industry totals \$103 million annually.¹

Support for SF 4528

The paper and wood products industry is a leader in promoting sustainable forest management. As a condition of membership, AF&PA members are committed to sustainable forest management and sourcing wood from responsibly managed forests. While 90% of the wood that is used to produce the essential paper and wood products that Americans use every day is sourced from private, sustainably managed working forests, public working forests also play a role in fiber supply.

Responsible stewardship is crucial to a working forest. Managed working forests have been around for generations, and our business is linked to the future of these trees. A healthy working forest

¹ Data sources: U.S. government, AF&PA, and Fastmarkets RISI. Figures are the most recent available as of December 2022.

means we're ensuring our future production and that we're safeguarding the forest for future generations. Working forests are carefully and sustainably managed by landowners, foresters, engineers, scientists, and harvest managers. These professionals help take care of the forest to ensure the trees are healthy. They also work to maintain the entire forest ecosystem.

SF 4528 is a bipartisan effort to support such activity in Minnesota and address the greatest challenges facing our forests. More forestland in the U.S., both working and non-working, is disturbed by natural events like insects, disease and fire than is harvested. The funding in SF 4528 for planting, seeding, site preparation, protection, and disease treatment in Minnesota's state forests is essential to supporting these areas and the essential industries that rely on sustainable forestry.

We appreciate the Committee's support of SF 4528 and encourage its passage. Please direct any questions to Frazier Willman, Manager, Government Affairs at frazier_willman@afandpa.org.