



The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota,  
North Dakota, South Dakota  
1101 West River Parkway, Suite 200  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1291

tel (612) 331.0700  
fax (612) 331.0770  
nature.org

House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division  
407 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hansen and members:

March 03, 2020

I am writing on behalf of The Nature Conservancy in support of H.F. 3590, which would fund a report to investigate the carbon sequestration potential on public and private lands in Minnesota.

Scientists at The Nature Conservancy have previously conducted research on natural climate solutions—otherwise known as the land stewardship options that result in carbon conservation and uptake—because of the magnitude of the opportunity they offer. In Minnesota, Conservancy science estimates that by implementing natural climate solutions we can increase carbon storage and avoid greenhouse gas emissions of up to 27 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year. This is the equivalent of 34% of net annual emissions in the state, as of 2014,<sup>1</sup> and can contribute to statewide greenhouse gas reduction goals and commitments.

While our research starts to explore the opportunities for natural climate solutions in the state, a more thorough evaluation of the natural climate solutions and the land management practices most suitable for Minnesota is needed to build on the work from the 2008 study by Anderson et al.<sup>2</sup> to fully explore the potential for sequestration.

Research from the University of Minnesota into the potential for carbon sequestration on public and private lands will identify opportunities to maximize the carbon benefit of natural areas in Minnesota. The \$1,000,000 appropriation in H.F. 3590 is less than 0.5% of the potential savings to be realized through a conservative price of \$10/ton carbon. This study will enable both public and private stakeholders to prioritize high-impact opportunities for carbon sequestration on their lands. The recommendations by the Board of Regents will hasten the implementation of natural climate solutions by providing sound research and justification for benefits and practices for sequestering carbon through land management.

For these reasons, we encourage you to support H.F. 3590, and to provide the scientific research necessary to pursue lands-based carbon sequestration in Minnesota. Thank you for your work on behalf of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

/s/ Elizabeth Crow  
Director of External Affairs  
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota

---

<sup>1</sup> Fargione, J.E. et al. (2018). Natural climate solutions for the United States. *Science Advances* (4); US State Mapper. *Nature 4 Climate*. [nature4climate.org/u-s-carbon-mapper/](http://nature4climate.org/u-s-carbon-mapper/)

<sup>2</sup> Anderson, J. et al. (2008). The Potential for Terrestrial Carbon Sequestration in Minnesota: A Report to the Department of Natural Resources from the Minnesota Terrestrial Carbon Sequestration Initiative. *University of Minnesota*.