

Date: March 29, 2022

To: Minnesota House of Representatives, Transportation Committee

Re: Support of HF 4313

We live in Excelsior but still own the family in western Minnesota. We often drive to the farm on highway 7 and, over the last 20 years, have noticed drastic landscape changes due to intensified agricultural practices and on how roadsides are maintained.

At one time, it was common to see meadowlarks, pheasants and other wildlife on the drive – not any more. Throughout the seasons, Minnesota roadsides lack wildlife habitat and visual appeal. Without much exaggeration it would be possible to play roadside golf from the western Twin cities all the way to South Dakota.

Minnesota is an outlier in how roadsides are maintained. For example, nearby states, like Missouri, South Dakota and Iowa, reduce blowing snow by using wildlife habitat improvement practices. Minnesota can and should do better.

Preserving and enhancing roadsides for wildlife will improve safety, protect water quality by filtering runoff, reduce erosion and capture carbon. For these reasons we strongly support HF 4513.

Thank you,

Patty and Greg Larson
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