

Written Testimony of Judy Chucker

I am submitting a statement in support of establishing habitat for pollinators and other wildlife along our state highways.

Minnesota needs to emulate our neighboring state of Iowa, which has already acknowledged the dire threat to pollinators, birds, and other wildlife due to the use of pesticides, loss of habitat, and the impacts caused by climate change.

This bill would provide needed habitat, reduce soil erosion, serve as a filter for water, provide habitat corridors for migrating wildlife, and give us much wanted visual appeal.

Besides Iowa, New York and Texas have implemented roadside programs that add much needed habitat along their roadsides. They have reported measurable success in the areas I listed, above.

Native plants are always the solution to the degradation of habitat. Besides helping out wildlife, they are far more economical due to their deep root system. This bill serves as an investment toward offsetting Minnesota's increasingly challenged landscape.

Please adopt HF4300.

Sincerely,

Judy Chucker
St. Louis Park, MN