

Testimony in Support of HF2618

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Paulita LaPlante, Prescription Landscape

My name is Paulita LaPlante.

I am the co-owner of Prescription Landscape and a member of MNLA. Founded in 1980, we have branch offices in St Paul, Shakopee, Crystal, and St Cloud. We provide year-round services including grounds care, snow-ice management, and landscape construction. We serve commercial clients including hospitals, clinics, banks, medical device manufacturers, warehouse, and retail. In the past 5 years, our clients have increasingly requested native prairie plantings, conversion of turf to pollinator friendly pollinator gardens, greenroof installations, and healing gardens. One of our divisions installed the Bee Lab at the University of Minnesota. Two years ago, we were hired to install the landscape at Minnehaha Academy. This included planting boulevard pollinator gardens. The landscape architect working with school administration emphasized the need to fit in with the surrounding neighborhood community. The 3 block radius around the school is replete with non-traditional front yards and residents are devoted to monarch habitat. To support the school in being good stewards as well as neighbors, we developed an educational syllabus that provided photos of each of their pollinator plants in its spring and summer phases and the pollinators they support. We also included photos of look alike weeds to help plant identification!

Our experience leads us to believe that commercial property owners and schools like Minnehaha can be a valuable source of leadership and community support for this bill. They are educators and leaders in their communities. They want to make a difference for healthy people and practices. Their managed pollinator "lawns" serve as examples.

Prescription Landscape strongly supports this HF2618.

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