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April 13, 2021

Representative Fue Lee Chair, House Capital Investment Committee 485 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Lee and Committee Members,

Thank you for including \$5 million in funding for reforestation on state DNR forest lands in the Omnibus Bonding Bill (HR 337).

This reforestation provision helps DNR meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, including purchasing native seeds and native seedlings, planting, seeding, site preparation, and protection on state lands administered by the commissioner. It also helps keep Minnesota's forests healthy and sustainable for generations to come.

I urge the entire committee to support this provision, providing a helping hand to the thousands of men and women who work in the forests and mills in Minnesota, keeping our forests *and* rural communities healthy.

Regards,

Mike Birkeland

Executive Vice President