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February 14, 2022

To: State Government and Elections Finance Committee

Subject: Letter of Testimony in Support of HF2618

Dear Chair Nelson and Committee Members:

Humming for Bees, along with our members and supporters, strongly support passing HF2618, "*Cities required to allow native landscapes on private land and ...*"

In this era of ever increasing urban and suburban development with the norm of managed grass lawns, it is even more important that our green spaces be encouraged to foster natural and healthy habitats for pollinators and wildlife.

Loss and fragmentation of habitat, pesticide contamination, air and water pollution, and climate change are major factors contributing to species decline. It is incumbent on us to promote and grow habitats that include plant diversity and healthy soils. In turn these environments can assure a greater number of species including pollinators and birds can survive if not thrive. Native habitats, with plant diversity from the smallest flowering plants to shrubs and trees also serve to enrich the soil, conserve water, use essentially no pesticides, and are more sustainable season to season, and year to year.

A yard with biodiverse native landscape can:

- provides nesting habitat, overwintering sites, food and water for pollinators in decline
- filters and protects water quality
- reduces soil erosion and rejuvenate soil health
- moderates climate change and absorbs carbon
- increases visual appeal
- provides habitat for songbirds in decline
- reduces pesticide use and overall maintenance costs
- increases property values

Allowing and promoting backyard, biodiverse habitats is a powerful step in keeping a healthy environment that benefits pollinators, other insects, birds, other animals, and even ourselves. We urge you support and pass HF2618.

Thank you,


Jeff Dinsmore



Patricia Hauser

Co-founders, Humming for Bees