

100%

100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
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www.100percentmn.org

March 30, 2022

Chair Hornstein and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to share our support for Rep. Todd Lippert's House File 2904.

The bill would accelerate tree planting in Minnesota through three programs: conservation planting, living snow fences, and ash tree replacement. Each approach is a sensible and strategic response to urgent needs for Minnesotans.

First, **conservation tree planting is an important strategy for addressing our changing climate, but it also has significant co-benefits for Minnesotans.** Tree cover serves as a carbon sink and, depending on where they are planted, can be an effective adaptation strategy, both improving the resiliency of land and providing shade from heat. Additionally, tree planting can be used as part of strategy to improve water quality, protect wildlife habitat, and control invasive species. Conservation tree planting is an approach that virtually every Minnesotan can agree on.

The bill's second program also provides significant co-benefits for Minnesotans by making winter driving safer and winter road maintenance cleaner and less costly. **Living snow fences are a smart way to trap blowing snow before it reaches roadways and impedes drivers.** It reduces the need for plowing and salting. Some living snow fences also reduce soil erosion and provide avian and pollinator wildlife habitat. They are an important natural climate solution that also serves to keep Minnesota's drivers safer.

Finally, the bill provides for tree replacement in communities impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive species in Minnesota. The removal and replacement of these trees is a significant cost for some communities. Many municipalities across the state have literally tens of thousands of trees at risk. **This bill would provide support in the places that most urgently need this assistance: environmental justice areas.** In many of these areas, trees provide significant climate and health benefits, improving air quality and providing shade during our warming summers.

Minnesota has an opportunity to accelerate our tree planting in 2022. With investments like these, Minnesota could get on track to plant **over five million trees per year, one tree for every Minnesotan.**

Please support House File 2904.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andy', written in a cursive style.

Chris Conry

Campaign Director

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