



MINNESOTA FOREST INDUSTRIES

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February 14, 2023

Rep. Fue Lee
485 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF669 - Minnesota DNR Portion of Bonding Bill

Dear Representative Lee and House Capital Investment Committee Members:

Minnesota Forest Industries, Inc. (MFI) is an association representing Minnesota's primary forest product companies. MFI and its member companies encourage conservation, proper forest management, and industry development that foster sound environmental stewardship, multiple use of timber lands, and sustainable, long-term timber supply. MFI members are part of a forest products industry which contributes \$16.8 billion to Minnesota's economy and provides nearly 68,000 jobs.

Thank you for including natural resources provisions in House File 669, which would address capital investment backlogs from the prior legislative session. We are specifically appreciative for the inclusion of general obligation bonds for the following programs:

- **\$6 million to Reforestation Under DNR's Betterment of Public Lands** - Reforestation is a critical component of proper forest management and contributes to reducing atmospheric carbon. Funding for reforestation has historically come from bonding, reflecting the long-term investment in a state resource. There is a dire need to fund a backlog of reforestation activities as well as future actions.
- **\$10 million Directed to the State Nursery Under Betterment of Buildings**. The Badoura State Nursery was built in the 1970s and has had few investments since. The aging equipment, facilities and technology is inadequate to meet the needs of the state. We need to make a significant investment in the nursery in order to meet the current and future demand for stock to increase forest cover in Minnesota. This will help the state meet demands ranging from increasing need for wood products to increasing carbon absorption.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rick Horton
Executive Vice President
Minnesota Forest Industries

Cc: DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen