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ADMINISTRATOR

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March 12, 2020

Minnesota Senate
Minnesota House of Representatives

RE: S.F. 3229; H.F. 3483

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to assure our State Legislators that Beltrami County stands behind Senate File 3229 and the companion bill House File 3483, and to encourage your strong support.

The NorthStar Pellet initiative is a perfect fit for the region around Beltrami County. The county and the State DNR have very robust timber management plans that assure the sustainability of our vast forests. The forest industry has been extremely important to our region for generations. Finding uses and markets for the wood residuals will leverage the products into additional jobs in our area, and will turn what had previously been residue into a valuable commodity. These kind of win/win situations do not come often enough.

We believe that this plant would create 45 direct jobs to our area and the economic impact will exceed \$50 million annually. Knowing that our loggers, sawmills and other wood companies have struggled to remain in business, we urgently seek your support. The 145 sawmills that have closed their operations in the last decade could likely have been salvaged had there been a market for their residue product. Those closures equate to many, many jobs. Again, the Legislature has the opportunity to leverage dollars that can create jobs as well as salvage jobs.

Again, your support for Senate File 3229 and House File 3483 is strongly endorsed by Beltrami County.

Respectfully,

Kay L. Mack, Administrator