



March 28, 2023

The Honorable Fong Hawj, Chair
Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Room 1150 Minnesota Senate Bldg
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF2438--A bill appropriating money for environment and natural resources (FY24 & FY25).

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) expresses its appreciation and support for FY24 and FY25 funding to acquire high priority sustainable forestry, climate change and forest carbon informational needs. Specifically, SF2438 provides an appropriation of \$906,000 the first year and \$926,000 the second year for MFRC to implement the Sustainable Forest Resources Act (MN Stat. 89A). If appropriated, MFRC plans to use increased base funding of \$49,000 in FY24, \$69,000 in FY25, and in each year thereafter, to secure immediate and on-going priority sustainable forest resource information, data and research needs as determined by MFRC's seventeen stakeholder representatives.

Entering FY24 and FY25, MFRC's highest priority informational needs are scientific assessments to better inform, prepare, and enable policymakers, communities, stakeholders, and forestry sectors to anticipate, respond, and adapt to climate change. Such information is vital to develop and implement sustainable forest resource management strategies; improve forest carbon sequestration and storage; offset greenhouse gas emissions; and promote state-of-the-art, climate-friendly forest product development critical to the implementation of the Governor's Climate Adaption Framework.

I respectfully request that this written testimony and the attached MFRC Resolution 2022-4 "Supporting Minnesota's Informational Needs for Sustainable Forest Resources Management, Products, and Policies" be included in the record of the March 28 hearing of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee.

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