



**Minnesota Forest Resources Council Resolution 2026-1
“Keeping Forests Forested”**

WHEREAS, 44% of Minnesota’s 17.6 million acres of forest are privately owned, including 5.9 million acres of family-owned land and 1.2 million acres of industry-owned land, with the balance in Tribal and nonprofit ownerships;

WHEREAS, 56% of Minnesota’s forests are publicly owned, including 2.9 million acres of federal land, 4.3 million acres of state land, and 2.7 million acres of county and local forests;

WHEREAS, public and privately owned forests yield public benefits by providing goods and services, including clean water, natural climate solutions through carbon sequestration and storage, fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetic values, cultural values, and timber products;

WHEREAS, sustainable management of forests supports economies, jobs, and community vitality in myriad sectors including tourism, recreation, and wood-based manufacturing;

WHEREAS, forests face increasing disturbances from disease, insects, fire, wind, and flooding;

WHEREAS, conversion, fragmentation, and parcelization of forest land can lead to irreversible loss of forest-derived goods, ecosystem services, and community character;

WHEREAS, while Minnesota’s public forest lands are governed by long-term protections, there are periodic threats of divestiture that can lead to loss of forest land;

WHEREAS, only a minority of privately owned forest lands in Minnesota are governed by long-term protections that help keep forests forested;

WHEREAS, Minnesota’s private forest owners have access to an array of forest protection policies and programs, including management plans, incentive payments, reduced property taxes, multi-decade covenants, conservation easements, cost sharing, seedling production, and technical assistance that can be leveraged and expanded to steward and sustain forest land;

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Forest Resources Act created the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and outlined its purposes to include recommending policies that acknowledge multiple ownership patterns and economic forces, foster no net loss of forest land in Minnesota, and encourage appropriate mixes of forest cover types and age classes within landscapes to promote biological diversity and viable forest dependent fish and wildlife habitats;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Minnesota Forest Resources Council supports policies, programs, and funding that provide enduring solutions to retain, restore, and sustainably manage public and privately owned forest lands, connecting generations of Minnesotans in the unified goal of keeping forests forested.



AYES (15) Pete Aube, Ben Benoit, Kim Berns-Melhus, Kory Cease, Dale Erickson, Scott Johnson, Mike Kilgore, Linda Kingery, Jim Manolis, Tom Radovich, John Rajala, Michael Stansberry, Deb Theisen, Patty Thielen, Ben Wallace

NAYS (0)

ABSENT (2) Dale Gentry, Tim Wegner

Attested to by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Aube".

Pete Aube
Minnesota Forest Resources Council Chair

Date: 03/17/2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric W. Schenck".

Eric Schenck
Minnesota Forest Resources Council Executive Director

Date: 03/17/2026