



The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota,  
North Dakota, South Dakota  
1101 West River Parkway, Suite 200  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1291

tel (612) 331.0700  
fax (612) 331.0770  
nature.org

Representative Liz Olson, Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee  
479 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 11, 2023

Dear Chair Olson and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

As the Committee reviews HF2754, the Climate and Energy Budget bill, we write to share our support for proposed general fund investments in programs that will benefit people and nature across the state.

We are particularly pleased to see a proposed \$1,000,000 base appropriation for the University of Minnesota Extension Service to enhance the capacity for Minnesota's agricultural sector, working lands, and communities to respond to climate change impacts (*Article 1, Sec. 7, (a)*). This program would build critical scientific capacity and establish a strong foundation for extension and outreach services to support climate preparedness and adaptation across the state.

Science affirms that nature is a significant tool to be leveraged to meet the state's carbon sequestration goals and build community resiliency. This program would provide outreach and technical assistance to farmers and private landowners that support their operations as working lands face more frequent and extreme weather events such as droughts and floods. This would be the first program of its kind nationally and will position the state to leverage federal funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and other federal programs.

As the legislature considers investments that can address climate change and make Minnesota more resilient, we encourage you to include this investment alongside additional natural climate solutions in other committee areas like Agriculture, Capital Investment, and Environment & Natural Resources.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla  
Government Relations Director  
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota

Molly Jansen  
Government Relations Specialist  
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota