

2022 Board of Directors

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Your Woodland, Your Legacy



May 10, 2022

Representative and Chair Hansen
Representative Wazlawik
Representative Morrison
Representative Lippert
Representative Heintzman

Senator and Chair Ingebrigtsen
Senator Tomassoni
Senator Eichorn
Senator Weber
Senator Eken

Environment and Natural Resources Conferees:

Since 1876, the Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA) has been a leading advocate for private forestland owners to ensure sound forest stewardship. Managing forests is a complex endeavor that must take a long view.

Privately-owned forestlands comprise 40% of Minnesota's forests. Well-managed forests protect water quality and provide critical wildlife habitats. Private forests must also play a significant role in supplying the wood and wood fiber for Minnesota's forest products industries.

MFA requests the Environment & Natural Resources Conference Committee provide funding to strengthen our forested landscape. Two specific provisions in the House version of the Environmental and Natural Resources Omnibus Bill do just that by proactively addressing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

Most important to private woodland owners and healthy management of their forests is an appropriation of **\$8,000,000** to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for an accelerated conservation planting program. These funds are for financial and technical assistance to landowners, via local units of government, to establish or enhance the planting of trees to sequester carbon, conserve energy, and improve water quality.

The House Bill also includes a **\$10,150,000** appropriation to the Department of Natural Resources for grants to local units of government to replace trees that had been removed to address the EAB infestation.

MFA would be pleased to provide any additional information the conferees may need while making decisions regarding these provisions and maintaining healthy forests in light of the recent drought and ongoing EAB infestations. For additional information, contact Sam Richie at srichie@fryberger.com or at (218) 301-9758.

Sincerely,

David Roerick
President
Minnesota Forestry Association

*Minnesota Forestry Association:
An organization of, by, and for private woodland owners and friends*