



# Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association

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March 2, 2021

Chair Long, Minority Lead Swedzinski, Members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HF1255.

The Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association ([MNLA](http://www.MNLA.biz)) strongly supports HF1255 to ensure that the District Energy Saint Paul cogeneration facility remains a viable option for energy and heat production through the use of wood waste as fuel. In the Twin Cities area, this facility plays an essential role in processing wood waste and is vital to disposing an ever-increasing amount of wood and tree waste in the state.

In particular, the cogeneration facility in Saint Paul plays a crucial role in the fight against Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive species in Minnesota that threatens every ash tree in the state. As this pest continues to spread to new counties in Minnesota, tree losses will increase, necessitating that Minnesota's current wood waste disposal capacity be maintained.

Additionally, as Minnesota cities, counties, and agencies continue to fight Emerald Ash Borer in Minnesota by replacing trees with diverse and climate-adapted species and by removing infested trees, wood waste will continue to be a growing problem requiring creative solutions to address it fully. Ensuring that the Saint Paul District Energy co-generation facility continues to consume wood waste is central to this effort.

MNLA urges members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy committee to pass this important piece of legislation.

Respectfully,

Forrest B. Cyr  
Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association  
Director of Government Affairs