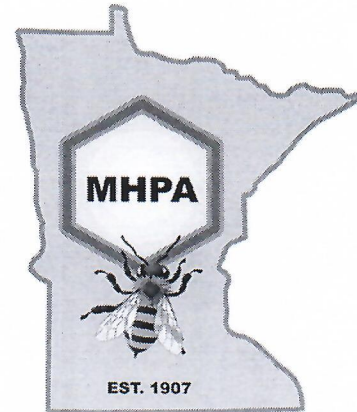


April 20, 2020

The Honorable Rick Hansen
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155



**Minnesota Honey Producers
Association**

Dear Representative Hansen,

We appreciate your leadership on pollinator issues. The Minnesota Honey Producers Association (MHPA) supports common-sense solutions to remove barriers to forage diversity and increase accessibility to honeybee habitat. We are writing this letter in support of your bill HF 4498, the LCCMR funding bill. Passage of this year's LCCMR package is a top priority for MHPA because of all of the good projects that are targeted for pollinators. Specifically, MHPA has voiced our support for the following projects:

- Improving Pollinator Conservation by Revealing Habitat Needs (Colleen Satyshur, U of MN), \$500,000.
- Bee Minnesota - Protect our Native Bumblebees (Decland Schroeder, U of MN), \$650,000.
- Tools for Supporting Healthy Ecosystems and Pollinators (Jessica Peterson, MN DNR), \$198,000.
- Pollinator & Beneficial Insect Strategic Habitat Program (Dan Shaw, BWSR), \$750,000.

Additionally, we would like to thank you for the addition of the Lawns to Legumes program in your amendment. This has been an effective and popular program throughout the state, and the rapidity with which the previous appropriation was spent shows that the demand is out there.

Each of these programs either conducts research or puts projects on the ground that will have positive effects on pollinators in Minnesota. MHPA supports each and every one of these programs, and their inclusion in this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership during this time and we encourage the Legislature to pass this legislation this year.

Sincerely,

David Schroeder
President
Minnesota Honey Producers Association