



Dear Legislators,

The Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC) supports the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center (MITPPC) and their request for funding through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. MITPPC provides vital research on many harmful terrestrial invasive species like buckthorn, Palmer amaranth, emerald ash borer, Dutch elm disease, and corn tar spot, among several others. The Center generates useful new ways to prevent or reduce the impacts of invasive species in Minnesota's forests, prairies, wetlands, and agriculture.

Terrestrial invasive species affect all of Minnesota and cost the state about \$3 billion per year. The research conducted by MITPPC saves people in every corner of the state precious time and resources.

MISAC strongly supports the critical research conducted by MITPPC. MITPPC bridges community members with nationally recognized biologists, engineers, technologists, social scientists, and more to drive transformative discoveries with great practical value. By supporting graduate students, MITPPC is also cultivating the next generation of scientists who will continue tackling these pressing issues.

Dozens of MITPPC projects are at the cusp of significant breakthroughs, with the fate of Minnesota's resources hanging in the balance. Without the funding, we will fail to see the full benefits of this work, and managers will continue to struggle to respond effectively to major terrestrial invasive species. If we want future generations to continue enjoying Minnesota's beloved forests, prairies, wetlands, as well as food security and economic stability, we need MITPPC to continue advancing on the plants and pests that threaten our state's future.

MISAC recognizes the unique role that MITPPC plays in the state and nationally. MITPPC is featured in an updated version of the statewide invasive species management plan, released to the public later this year. Detection, prevention, and management of invasive species remain critical components of this plan. MITPPC plays a pivotal role in helping achieve these goals.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully,

Chelsey Blanke
MISAC Chair

Ariana Richardson
MISAC Co-Chair

MISAC Member Organizations

1854 Treaty Authority
Carver County Water Management Organization
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Hennepin County Public Works
Meeker County
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD)
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)
Minnesota Association of County Agricultural Inspectors
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT)
Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center (MITPPC)
Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA)
National Park Service (NPS)
St. Croix River Association
The Nature Conservancy
Three Rivers Park District (TRPD)
University of Minnesota – Weed Science
University of Minnesota – Extension
University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program
U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal Plant Health Inspection Service – Plant Protection and Quarantine (APHIS-PPQ)
U.S. Department of Agriculture – National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Wildlife Forever