



February 3, 2021

Dear Legislators,

The members of the Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC) would like to express our support for the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center's funding request through the 2020 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund bill, which is now reflected in H.F. 30 and S.F. 166.

MISAC works to implement elements of Minnesota's statewide invasive species management plan. Research into the detection, prevention, and management of invasive species is a critical component of this plan.

Terrestrial invasive species can cost Minnesota about \$3 billion per year. The Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center (MITPPC) at the University of Minnesota brings together numerous stakeholders to research and deliver science-based, practical solutions. The research being conducted by MITPPC is saving the state precious time and resources.

Because of their placement at the University of Minnesota, MITPPC is able to bring together many cross-disciplinary experts: biologists, engineers, technologists, social scientists, and more. By supporting graduate students, MITPPC is also cultivating the next generation of scientists who will continue solving these problems.

Minnesota's agricultural, forest, and prairie ecosystems will greatly benefit from MITPPC research, and MISAC strongly supports the important research conducted by MITPPC. Thank you for your consideration of its proposal.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Burington
MISAC Chair

Chelsey Blanke
MISAC Co-Chair

Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC) Member organizations (as of 2019):

- 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 Natural Resources (MN DNR)
- 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
- 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