



March 26th, 2024

Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carolina Ortiz, Associate Executive Director at COPAL, and I am submitting this letter on behalf of COPAL in support of HF3705, which will add permeable synthetic turf to the Minnesota Stormwater Manual, providing yet another option for homeowners to control runoff in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.

Here at COPAL, some of our most important priorities include environmental justice, and ensuring that Latino and underrepresented communities have access to a healthy and sustainable place to live.

HF3705 not only supports jobs, but it also provides a sustainable option for homeowners to provide a lawn for their children to play on **without wasting precious water** to maintain it, **without having to use pesticides** to keep their children safe from bugs, **without the use of harmful fertilizers**, and **without PFAS**. Additionally, this will help homeowners maintain a sustainable lawn in shaded areas where grass just won't grow without the need of continuous wasteful watering.

This option will incentivize homeowners to place planters with pollinator-friendly products that will contribute to our pro pollinator efforts.

Lastly, as Minnesotans, we should be free to do what we believe is best for our properties and families. Adding this option to the Minnesota Stormwater Manual will help us achieve that. COPAL and our 375 members throughout the state fully support HF3705.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carolina Ortiz'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolina Ortiz
Associate Executive Director