



March 14, 2023

RE: Support of HF1402_Statutory Authority for Local Government to Levy Street Impact Fees

Honorable Chair Hornstein, Vice-Chair Tabke, Ranking Member Petersberg and Committee Members:

Scott County is among the fastest growing counties in the state of Minnesota. This rapid growth brings both opportunity and challenge. Each new home build brings incremental costs to existing city/township infrastructure. Every new home adds increased demand on parks, water, sewer and *10 vehicle trips/day to collector road infrastructure*. It is for that reason that the Legislative priorities of The *Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency* (SCALE), begins with a request of your support for statutory authorization of HF1402, Street Impact Fees. It is through this legislation that the incremental costs of growth will be on the development and **not fall to existing taxpayers!**

In growing areas, it is critical that new development pay for itself. Documented fees for *new street infrastructure* should be allowed to ensure that development is planned, connected, and pays for itself without distributing those costs to current residents/taxpayers.

All Scott County cities, many townships, and the Scott County Board of Commissioners have taken up this priority as an independent board/council resolution. To provide you with an unparalleled demonstration of alignment on this issue, we are pleased to provide signatures to confirm support across the SCALE Municipalities:

- The Scott County Board Chair
- All eight Scott County City Mayors representing their Council support (Belle Plaine, Credit River, Elko New Market, Jordan, New Prague, Prior Lake, Savage and Shakopee.)

Absent legislative action to remedy this situation, we will find ourselves in one of three difficult positions:

1. Standing firm on a position of *premature development* where we must await infrastructure build-out before welcoming new neighbors, **which will impede development and local government growth.**
2. Allow growth to come and burden **existing residents with a degradation of capacity and safety on a road network sized for a smaller community.**
3. Transfer the uncovered cost of growth on to the existing taxpayers.

We are so appreciative of Representative Jessica Hanson's effort in authoring HF1402 to address an oversight that exists in statute.

As members of the Finance and Policy Committee, we ask that you pass HF1402 following the hearing this Thursday. Your affirmative vote will address an omission in statute and ensure that growing cities have all the tools they need to size infrastructure to meet demand, without **placing** the cost-of-growth on existing taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Michael Woletz
Mayor, City of Belle
Plaine



Joe Julius
Mayor, City of Elko New
Market



Mike Franklin
Mayor, City of Jordan



Matt Lehman
Mayor, City of
Shakopee



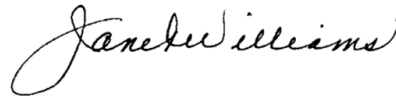
Chris Kostik
Mayor, City of Credit
River



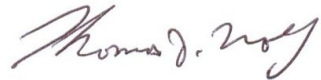
Duane Jirik
Mayor, City of New Prague



Kirt Briggs
Mayor, City of Prior Lake



Janet Williams,
Mayor, City of Savage



Tom Wolf
Chair, Board of Commissioners

C.C. League of Minnesota Cities
Metro Cities
Association of Minnesota Counties
Municipal Legislative Commission