

The Honorable Rena Moran 449 State Office Building 100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd St. Paul, MN 55155

April 13, 2021

Dear Chair Moran and the members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

We, the Minnesota Fire Association Coalition (MNFAC) which is made up of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, the Minnesota State Fire Department Association, the Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, and the Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters are writing to you to ask you to **oppose any efforts to delete the firefighter certification board language** that is included in the House Public Safety omnibus bill.

The Certification Board language included in the House Public Safety omnibus bill was agreed upon by a number of stakeholders including MNFAC, MPFF, the State Fire Marshal's Office and a majority of the Certification Board on a vote of 16-3.

We are fully supportive of the efforts of the Department of Public Safety, the State Fire Marshal, and the Minnesota Professional Firefighters to move the functions of the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board to the State Fire Marshal's Office. This move will assist in streamlining firefighter certification and licensing for firefighters across the state and it will ensure greater transparency and oversight. Enabling legislation is the last step needed to transition the Certification Board to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

We would ask the Ways and Means Committee to oppose any efforts to delete the agreed-upon language. We appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Chief BJ Jungmann Legislative Chair, MNFAC

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Chris Parsons President, MPFF