

April 6, 2022

Chair Marquart and members of the House Taxes Committee:

On behalf the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota, I write to support provisions in the A-22 DE amendment to HF 3669 that we believe will both accelerate and increase the reach of local investments in our state's critical infrastructure.

We are Minnesota's infrastructure union, representing more than 13,000 skilled construction laborers who build and maintain our roads, highways, bridges, transit, energy infrastructure and the basic utilities that allow our communities to thrive.

I want to thank Chair Marquart for including Article 3, Section 11 which streamlines the sales and use tax credit for local governments and non-profits for FY23. This provision combined with the proposed increases to local government aids and credits, and resources for housing and workforce training will increase communities' ability, flexibility, tools, and resources for investing in the fundamentals every community needs to be safe and prosper.

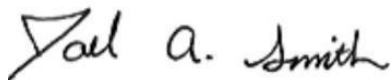
It is no secret that Minnesota has fallen behind in maintaining wastewater treatment plants, stormwater facilities, drinking water systems that are often at or near capacity, or they can even be at or near the end of their useful life. This is critical infrastructure that allows communities to prepare for severe weather events, clean up existing water contamination, upgrade facilities to prevent pollution from happening in the first place.

Cities across the state also face the daunting task of identifying, removing, and replacing the estimated 100,000 - 260,000 lead service lines to assure clean and safe drinking water is delivered to families and children in every community.

These investments will launch and maintain thousands of high-quality, family sustaining, prevailing wage jobs all throughout the state, and drive economic inclusion opportunities that will connect thousands of women, veterans, people of color and young people to the promise of great careers in the Trades through our registered apprenticeship programs.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you as these provisions move forward through the legislative process.

Respectfully,



Joel Smith
President and Business Manager
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota