



Feb. 25, 2024

Chair Koznick and members of the House Transportation committee:

As Minnesota's labor federation representing public sector, private sector, and building trades unions and their members across the state, we are writing to express our opposition to HF367.

Throughout history, working people in labor, civil, and human rights movements have shown that disruptive protest is sometimes necessary to achieve positive social change.

In one famous example, in 1965 Martin Luther King led thousands of demonstrators on several attempts to march from Selma to Montgomery to campaign for Black voting rights. Police attacked the peaceful protestors with clubs and tear gas in an event that became known as Bloody Sunday. A few months later, Congress passed and President Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act to eliminate legal barriers at the state and local level that had prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote under the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment for nearly a century. The march from Selma to Montgomery took place on U.S. Highway 80.

Labor unions and allies in Minnesota have protested on streets and highways for better wages, to form unions, to draw attention to unsafe working conditions, to bring attention to racial injustice, to advocate for legislation, and to protest greedy corporations and CEOs.

Imposing civil liability on people for peacefully blocking a highway would have a chilling effect on Minnesotans' ability to peaceably assemble or petition their government for a redress of grievances. Please vote no on HF367.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Hysing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melissa" and last name "Hysing" clearly distinguishable.

Melissa Hysing  
Legislative Director

