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March 9, 2021

Dear Members of the House Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs  
Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF 984, Outside Contractors Working at High-Hazard Facilities

The Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association supports HF 984.

The Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association, with 150 members, represent contractors who perform the installation and servicing of plumbing, heating, and cooling equipment. Whether it is water, natural gas, oil, air or any other medium – mechanical contractors do it. Our contractors range in size from a couple of employees to hundreds of employees, and in type from installing a water heater in your home to repiping a refinery. Minnesota MCA members hire over 6000 employees and performed over \$1/2 billion of construction business every year. Our contractors spend over \$5 million dollars every year on training apprentices and journeyworkers on all aspects of our industry.

MMCA supports having highly trained workers in high-hazard facilities like oil refineries. Construction work is dangerous work and even more so where there are toxic chemicals, fire and explosion hazards present. Many of these facilities need high levels of protection including positive pressure ventilation, structural reinforcement, and blast walls. Moving unneeded workers away from hazardous areas, working with pressurized liquids and gasses, and having properly trained people to inspect and test pipes and vessels are all activities that require highly trained workers where safety is ingrained in their training and work practices.

House File 984 would help keep Minnesota workers and the public safer.

Sincerely,

Steven Pettersen  
Executive Vice President