

Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board

June 15, 2021

Representative Paul Marquart, Chair

House Tax Committee

Information Hearing: Omnibus Tax Bill (HF 9) June 17, 2021

Dear Representative Marquart:

Please consider the following comments and the attached 2018 letter to Senator Kiffmeyer as part of the record for the above cited informational hearing.

The Northern Counties Land Use Board (NCLUCB) is a joint powers board consisting of elected county commissioners from 10 northern counties: Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Pennington and Marshall (2021).

We note that HF 9 does not yet include any consideration of the Enbridge property liability now facing the 13 northern counties through which the pipeline system travels. We understand that this issue is subject to ongoing discussions among House and Senate leadership. We also believe that the Dept. of Revenue (DOR) has suggested a State-County repayment formula for this property tax liability. The affected counties, consistent with the Dept. of Revenue's actions throughout this decade-long controversy, have not had an opportunity to participate in allocating the liability between our entities or respectfully suggest alternative repayment options.

House File 30, recently introduced in the Special Legislative Session, provides a simple, clear and equitable solution. The State of Minnesota, through the Dept of Revenue, unilaterally created this fiscal nightmare, the State should be responsible for paying for it. And, given the projected State revenue forecast, the State can easily afford to solve it.

If no equitable resolution can be reached at this time, please consider our 2018 request to involve the Legislative Audit Commission to investigate and assess both the liability and equity issues prior to the 2022 legislative session.

On behalf of the Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Commission, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Darryl Tveitbakk, Commissioner District #4

Pennington County Minnesota

