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February 28, 2023

Chair Hornstein and Members of the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA), we write in support of HF1550, a bill to provide federal grants technical assistance and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) discretionary match funding.

Both AMC and MCEA have long advocated for the need for additional transportation funding, and it takes funding at the local, state, and federal level to meet the needs and demands on our local transportation system. With the passage of the IIJA, the state needs to position itself to be able to best compete for and utilize these federal funds.

We appreciate Chair Koegel's work to create and fund a program that would provide technical assistance to local governments across the state to apply for IIJA discretionary grants. This assistance will be helpful for all counties, but particularly smaller counties that might not have the expertise, resources, and staff available to do this on their own. As the bill moves forward, we look forward to continuing to work with Chair Koegel and other stakeholders as well as our partners at MnDOT to help ensure successful implementation of the program.

Finally, we appreciate the inclusion of significant state matching funds available in the bill. This funding will help local governments with projects that qualify for a federal grant to still apply for those grants even if they do not have all the matching funds in place.

We want to thank Chair Koegel, Chair Hornstein, and members of the committee for recognizing the importance of maximizing these federal IIJA dollars. Thank you for your consideration and support of HF1550.

Sincerely,

Emily Murray, Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Analyst  
*Association of Minnesota Counties*

Brian Pogodzinski, Houston County Engineer  
*President, Minnesota County Engineers Association*