



***Jackson County Sheriff's Office
& Emergency Management***

400 Sherman St.

Jackson, MN 56143

507-847-4420

Shawn Haken, Sheriff

Kelly Mitchell, Chief Deputy



April 15th, 2024

To: Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

We are writing today to express our support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

As demands on local law enforcement resources continue to increase, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. Particularly in southern Minnesota, there is a gap in resources which creates inefficiencies and causes delays in investigating cases and analyzing evidence. Our officers/deputies are required to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for different investigative services and to submit evidence for forensic testing. This takes officers off the streets and away from preventing and solving crimes. Our agency partners with the BCA on investigations that require specialized services such as examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video and 3-D scanner analysis. Having access to these types of resources in closer proximity is critical to the success of our investigations.

Reducing turnaround times for evidence processing is equally critical to the successful investigation and prosecution of these cases. Having a laboratory located more proximally to our agency creates efficiencies with a more effective approach. We rely on BCA forensics testing to further our criminal investigations and it's critical to our own service delivery to have adequate laboratory capacity and this new laboratory is an important piece of those resources.

Lastly, training our peace officers/deputies is an important aspect of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota at these facilities is important to my agency to help reduce staffing challenges and costs while we have our officers/deputies attend important training.

We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully,


Shawn Haken, Sheriff


Chief Deputy Kelly Mitchell


Investigator Taylor Martin


Investigator Adam Koch



Office of **SHERIFF OF BELTRAMI COUNTY**

613 Minnesota Avenue NW
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

Jason Riggs, Sheriff

Phone (218) 333-9111

Fax (218) 333-8325

To Chair Pappas and Member of the Senate Capital Investment Committee
Chair Lee and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee

I'm writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

As demands on local law enforcement resources continues to increase, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. Particularly in southern Minnesota, there is a gap in resources which creates inefficiencies and causes delays in investigating cases and analyzing evidence. Our officers/deputies are required to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for different investigative services and to submit evidence for forensic testing. This takes officers off the streets and away from preventing and solving crimes. Our agency partners with the BCA on investigations that require specialized services such examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video and 3-D scanner analysis. Having access to these types of resources in closer proximity is critical to the success of our investigations.

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Lastly, training our peace officers/deputies is an important aspect of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota at these facilities is important to my agency to help reduce staffing challenges and costs while we have our officers/deputies attend important training.

We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Jason Riggs, Beltrami County Sheriff

OFFICE OF THE MCLEOD COUNTY ATTORNEY
RYAN HANSCH
COUNTY ATTORNEY



McLeod County Courthouse
830 11th Street East, Suite 112
Glencoe, Minnesota 55336
Tel. (320) 864-1265
Fax (320) 864-1455
Email: attorney@mcleodcountymn.gov

April 17, 2024

Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee

I'm writing today to express my support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

Demands on local law enforcement resources continue to increase. My office, and the law enforcement agencies working with my office, rely more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. Particularly in south central Minnesota, there is a gap in resources which creates inefficiencies and causes delays in investigating cases and analyzing evidence. It is not uncommon for our law enforcement partners to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for different investigative services and to submit evidence for forensic testing. This takes officers off the streets and away from preventing and solving crimes. Our law enforcement partners work with the BCA on investigations that require specialized services such as examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video and 3-D scanner analysis. Having access to these types of resources in closer proximity is critical to the success of our investigations and criminal prosecutions.

Reducing turnaround times for evidence processing is equally critical to the successful investigation and prosecution of these cases. Having a laboratory located closer to our partner agencies creates efficiencies with a more effective approach. We rely on BCA to conduct forensic testing to further our criminal investigations and it's critical to our own service delivery to have adequate laboratory capacity. This new laboratory is an important piece of those resources.

Lastly, the training of peace officers is an important consideration of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota at these facilities is important to my office and, ultimately, the residents of my county.

I consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RSH", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ryan S. Hansch
McLeod County Attorney

WASECA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Waseca County Courthouse
307 North State Street
Waseca, Minnesota 56093
Telephone 507-835-0520
Fax 507-835-0533

County Attorney

Rachel V. Cornelius

Victim-Witness Coord./Paralegal

Stephanie Hayes

Assistant County Attorney

Amanda R. Pflueger
Russell E. Hardeman
Deja L. Weber

Paralegal

Lori Anderson

April 12, 2024

Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

RE: BCA Facility in Mankato for southern Minnesota

Dear Chairs and Committee Members,

I'm writing in support for the Governor's bonding recommendation for a new Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) facility in southern Minnesota, specifically Mankato.

I have seen the excellent work that the BCA does on our cases. However, the turnaround time for evidence processing is very critical to the successful investigation and prosecution of our cases. Minnesota is in a law enforcement crisis as it is. Most every LE agency is working short-staffed. Therefore, when a LE agency needs to bring evidence to the BCA in St. Paul, this is a large drain on resources when you are pulling officers away from their communities for an extended period of time.

Due to the large number of drug and violent crimes, it is important that evidence is processed in a timely manner. Having a more local BCA site will assist with reducing turnaround time. Also, providing a more efficient way for the BCA analysts to testify in court matters, only having to travel a short distance, as opposed to taking the whole day from their current location in St. Paul. This helps the analysts get back to work in a more timely manner, to continue processing evidence for other cases.

Finally, having a more local opportunity for BCA training events would be a benefit to all our law enforcement officers. A closer location will assist with staffing challenges and costs to have more officers attend important trainings offered by the BCA. The BCA is an integral part of our justice system and a key business partner. Funding any expansions of the BCA facilities into the greater Minnesota area will provide significant benefits to public safety overall. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Rachel V. Cornelius

Waseca County Attorney



Cory Aukes, Sheriff
Hubbard County Sheriff's Office
301 Court Avenue
Park Rapids, MN 56470
218-732-3331 Fax: 218-732-2550



To protect and serve citizens of Hubbard County

April 18, 2024

Reference: Letter of Support

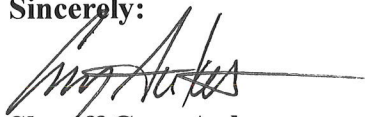
**Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee,**

I am writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA facility in Bemidji.

As demands on local law enforcement resources continues to increase, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. An additional facility in Minnesota would reduce some of the caseload at the other facilities, improving turnaround times. Improvements made to the BCA facility in Bemidji will have a direct affect on public safety not only in Hubbard County, but on northern Minnesota.

We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely:


Sheriff Cory Aukes

April 15, 2024



MN House Capital Investment Committee

Minnesota House Building
St. Paul, MN

Chair Lee and Members-

I am writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

As demands for public safety resources continue to increase in our area, our agency is relying more heavily on the BCA to help resolve the complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. There is currently a gap in resource availability which causes delays in investigations and processing of evidence. Our staff frequently drives to St. Paul for services and forensic testing of evidence because the resources needed for today's crime is specialized and only located in St. Paul. The time spent in transit is time taken away from problem solving and building trust in our community.

By having a facility in southern Minnesota, I would expect to experience quicker turnaround times for evidence processing, which will aid in providing better service to crime victims while holding offenders accountable for their actions. Trends in our area include spikes in violent crime/weapon offenses, narcotics violations including fentanyl, and an increase in technology related crime. A facility in southern Minnesota will create efficiencies for all of southern Minnesota, allowing law enforcement to be more effective in their communities.

Additionally, having well trained officers responding to the needs of the community is critical to problem solving and building trust. Having a facility in southern Minnesota will increase opportunities to send officers to training by decreasing travel time and related costs.

I consider the BCA to be a key state partner and I urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy N. Vokal".

Amy N. Vokal
Director of Public Safety
City of Mankato
avokal@mankatomn.gov
507-387-8794

April 15, 2024



MN Senate Capital Investment Committee

Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN

Chair Pappas and Members-

I am writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

As demands for public safety resources continue to increase in our area, our agency is relying more heavily on the BCA to help resolve the complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. There is currently a gap in resource availability which causes delays in investigations and processing of evidence. Our staff frequently drives to St. Paul for services and forensic testing of evidence because the resources needed for today's crime is specialized and only located in St. Paul. The time spent in transit is time taken away from problem solving and building trust in our community.

By having a facility in southern Minnesota, I would expect to experience quicker turnaround times for evidence processing, which will aid in providing better service to crime victims while holding offenders accountable for their actions. Trends in our area include spikes in violent crime/weapon offenses, narcotics violations including fentanyl, and an increase in technology related crime. A facility in southern Minnesota will create efficiencies for all of southern Minnesota, allowing law enforcement to be more effective in their communities.

Additionally, having well trained officers responding to the needs of the community is critical to problem solving and building trust. Having a facility in southern Minnesota will increase opportunities to send officers to training by decreasing travel time and related costs.

I consider the BCA to be a key state partner and I urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy N. Vokal".

Amy N. Vokal
Director of Public Safety
City of Mankato
avokal@mankatomn.gov
507-387-8794

Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Services

PO Box 959, 25060 Hwy 1
Red Lake, MN 56671-0959

Office: 218-679-3313
Fax: 218-679-2194



To: Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

Boozhoo (Hello),

I am writing today to express support for the Governors bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

As demands on local law enforcement resources continue to increase, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. Particularly in southern Minnesota, there is a gap in resources which creates inefficiencies causing delays in investigation of cases and analyzing evidence. Officers and Deputies are required to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for different investigative services and to submit evidence for forensic testing. This takes Officers and Deputies off the streets and away from preventing and solving crimes in their community.

Our agency partners with the BCA on investigations that require specialized services such as examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video 3-D scanner analysis. Having access to these types of resources in closer proximity is critical to the success of our investigations.

Reducing turnaround times for evidence processing is equally critical to the successful investigation and prosecution of these cases. Having laboratories located more proximally to our agency creates efficiencies with a more effective approach. We rely on BCA forensics testing to further our criminal investigations and it's critical to our own service delivery to have adequate laboratory capacity and this new laboratory is an important piece of those resources.

Lastly, training our Officers and Deputies is an important aspect of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota at these facilities is important to my agency to help reduce staffing challenges and costs while we have our Officers and Deputies attend important training. We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kendall Kingbird Sr.", is written over a light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Kendall Kingbird Sr., Director

Red Lake Department of Public Safety



FREEBORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ryan Shea, Sheriff

411 Broadway Av S, PO Box 170, Albert Lea, MN 56007-0170

507.377.5205 ryan.shea@co.freeborn.mn.us

April 4, 2024

To: Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

I'm writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

As demands on local law enforcement resources continue to increase, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and evidence processing in a more effective manner. Particularly in southern Minnesota, there is a gap in resources which creates inefficiencies and causes delays in analyzing evidence, which in turn, delays investigations. Our deputies are required to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for different investigative services or to submit evidence for forensic testing. This takes deputies off the streets and away from preventing and solving crimes. Our agency partners with the BCA on investigations that require specialized services such examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video and 3-D scanner analysis. Having access to these types of readily available resources in closer proximity, is critical to the success and timeliness of our investigations.

Reducing turnaround times for evidence processing is critical to the successful investigation and prosecution of these cases. Having a laboratory located more proximally to our agency would create efficiencies with a more effective approach. We rely on BCA forensics testing to further our criminal investigations and it's critical to our own service delivery to have adequate laboratory capacity and this new laboratory is an important piece of those resources.

Lastly, training our deputies is an important aspect of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota at these facilities is important to my agency to help reduce local costs and staffing challenges while we have our deputies attend important training.



FREEBORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ryan Shea, Sheriff

411 Broadway Av S, PO Box 170, Albert Lea, MN 56007-0170

507.377.5205 ryan.shea@co.freeborn.mn.us

We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Shea", enclosed within a large, loopy blue oval.

Sheriff Ryan Shea



Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office

Jeff Wersal
Sheriff

Jeremy Brennan
Chief Deputy

April 4, 2024

Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

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Lastly, training our peace officers/deputies is an important aspect of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota at these facilities is important to my agency to help reduce staffing challenges and costs while we have our officers/deputies attend important training.

We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jeff Wersal".

Sheriff Jeff Wersal
Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office

401 Carver Road, P.O. Box 228, Mankato, MN 56002-0228, (507) 304-4800, FAX (507) 304-4818

www.co.blue-earth.mn.us



4 Apr 24

From: Director, Public Safety
To: Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

Subj: BCA BONDING REQUEST

I am writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota.

As demands on local law enforcement resources continues to increase, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. Particularly in southern Minnesota, there is a gap in resources, which creates inefficiencies and causes delays in investigating cases and analyzing evidence. Our officers are required to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for different investigative services and to submit evidence for forensic testing. This takes officers off the streets and away from preventing and solving crimes. Our agency collaborates with the BCA on investigations that require specialized services such examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video and 3-D scanner analysis. Having access to these types of resources in closer proximity is critical to the success of our investigations.

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Lastly, training our peace officers is an important aspect of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota is important to my agency to help reduce staffing challenges and costs while we have our officers attend important training.

We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund the BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. D. Carlson".

J. D. CARLSON



MILLE LACS

Tribal Police Department

43408 Oodena Drive • Onamia, MN 56359 • (320) 532-3430 • Fax (320) 532-4190

April 4, 2024

Minnesota Senate Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee

RE: BCA Facility bonding recommendation(s)

Madam Chair Sandra Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Mr. Chair Fue Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee,

This letter is in support of the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

Our agency has a good working relationship with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and utilize the state's resources on a continuing basis. Whether investigating drug conspiracy crimes or violent crime, the BCA provides manpower, crime scene processing, investigations, and laboratory forensic testing on many cases we investigate.

I strongly support increasing the capabilities of current or future BCA sites in order to reduce processing times for laboratory results and providing analysis results from forensic testing, or specialized services such as examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video and 3-D scanner analysis.

These services that have expedited results and proximity locations fair to all agencies in the state will benefit all agencies with increased successful investigations and prosecutions.

The BCA is a key state partner for not only assisting in active investigations and processing of evidence, but we send many of our officers to peace officer trainings hosted by the BCA. Some of these trainings are held across the state, which can be a burden to our agency with increased costs and time away from our community.

Please consider this bonding as an option as it would benefit many law enforcement agencies across Minnesota in the efforts of keeping Minnesota safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

James West
Chief of Police
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Police

DISTRICT II

20849 370th Lane • McGregor, MN 55760
(218) 768-3332 • Fax (218) 768-3334

DISTRICT III

45471 Grace Lake Road • Sandstone, MN 55072
(320) 384-7195 • Fax (320) 384-6876



BEMIDJI POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Michael Mastin

613 Minnesota Ave NW ♦ Bemidji, MN 56601

Phone: 218-333-9111 Fax: 218-333-8370

policechief@ci.bemidji.mn.us

**Senate Capital Investment Committee
Attention: Chair Pappas and Members**

April 8th, 2024

**House Capital Investment Committee
Attention: Chair Lee and Members**

Re: Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

As the Chief of Police for the Bemidji Police Department with over 24 years of working with the Minnesota BCA, I strongly support bonding for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

Throughout my tenure in Bemidji, our agency has partnered with the BCA on numerous complex investigations that require specialized services such as; examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video and 3-D scanner analysis. This established partnership and proximity of resources has resulted in positive outcomes for many large cases that have made national news. As demands on local law enforcement resources continue to increase, many more agencies will rely on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and their ability to process evidence more quickly.

With the popularity of shows like Forensic Files, CSI: Crime Scene Investigation and 48 hours; the public's expectation for the investigation of a crime is tremendously high. The public (and juries) expect that all evidence will be located, collected, analyzed and sent to the prosecutor in an unrealistically short period of time. By reducing turnaround times for evidence processing, the entire judicial system can build trust and achieve positive outcomes for victims of crime in a more timely manner. We rely heavily on BCA forensics testing to support our criminal investigations. It is critical to our own service delivery that the Bemidji BCA laboratory facility be increased in size so it can handle the needs for all law enforcement agencies in northern Minnesota.

Lastly, with the numerous unfunded training mandates issued in the last few years, many law enforcement agencies struggle to find local training options. Having more training in greater Minnesota at these BCA facilities is important to all agencies as we try to reduce staffing challenges and costs while our officers/deputies attend training.

I consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota.

I thank you for the support,

Chief Mike Mastin, Bemidji Police Department



4 Apr 24

From: Director, Public Safety
To: Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Subj: BCA BONDING REQUEST

I am writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota.

As demands on local law enforcement resources continues to increase, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. Particularly in southern Minnesota, there is a gap in resources, which creates inefficiencies and causes delays in investigating cases and analyzing evidence. Our officers are required to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for different investigative services and to submit evidence for forensic testing. This takes officers off the streets and away from preventing and solving crimes. Our agency collaborates with the BCA on investigations that require specialized services such examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video and 3-D scanner analysis. Having access to these types of resources in closer proximity is critical to the success of our investigations.

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Lastly, training our peace officers is an important aspect of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota is important to my agency to help reduce staffing challenges and costs while we have our officers attend important training.

We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund the BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. D. Carlson".

J. D. CARLSON



Cass County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Bryan Welk

PO Box 1119 * 303 Minnesota Ave * Walker MN 56484
218-547-1424 * 800-450-2677 * 218-547-3394 (fax)
cass.sheriff@casscountymn.gov | www.casscountymn.gov



Bryan Welk
Cass County Sheriff
Cass County Sheriffs Office
303 Minnesota Avenue West
Walker, MN 56484
218.547.7310
Bryan.Welk@casscountymn.gov

Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

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We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Welk, Cass County Sheriff

Date

** Protecting & Serving the Citizens and Visitors of Cass County **

Eric Alger
Chief Deputy/TRIAD
218-547-7310

Chas Ratz
Lieutenant
218-547-7330

Chris Thompson
Lieutenant
218-547-7361

Trevor Dwire
Admin/Civil
218-547-7308

Emma Gribbin
Records
218-547-7303

Shanna Conner
Chief Dispatcher
218-547-1424

Chad Emery
Emergency Mgmt
218-547-7437



MINNESOTA
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE



March 6, 2024

Chair Pappas and Members of the Senate Capitol Investment Committee
Via Electronic Delivery

Re: Letter in Support of Governor Walz Recommendations for BCA Projects

Dear Chair Pappas and Members of the Committee:

Violence Free Minnesota (VFMN), the Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC), the Minnesota Children's Alliance, and the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC) submit this letter to express our support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's (BCA) projects. We are statewide coalitions who, together, consist of over 150-member programs working to end domestic and sexual violence, child abuse, and general crime. Member programs provide direct services and support to survivors of crime in all 87 counties in Minnesota.

We believe that victim survivors deserve timely and accurate evidence and information related to the crimes committed against them. As you know, the BCA labs process sexual assault kits – which have been backlogged for years – as well as evidence involved in intimate partner violence cases, homicide cases, crimes against children, and more.

The Governor's recommendation to build a new Southern Minnesota BCA Regional Office and Laboratory, as well as the expansion of the existing Bemidji facility, will help increase efficiency and decrease processing times of kits and other evidence that is critical for victim survivors of crime and their families. Access to timely evidence and information is an important step in providing victim survivors with the access to justice that they deserve.

Please support the Governor's recommendations for BCA bonding projects.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Lopez
Executive Director
Violence Free Minnesota

Marcia Milliken
Executive Director
MN Children's Alliance

Bobbi Holtberg
Executive Director
MN Alliance on Crime

Nicole Matthews
Executive Director
MN Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

OFFICE OF SHERIFF

NICOLLET COUNTY

Dave Lange
Sheriff

501 South Minnesota Ave.
P.O. Box 117
St. Peter, MN 56082
(507) 931-1570
Admin. Fax: (507) 934-7159
Jail Fax: (507) 934-7166
Dispatch Fax: (507) 934-7169
www.co.nicollet.mn.us

Aaron Petersen
Chief Deputy

“Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

I’m writing today to express support for the Governor’s bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

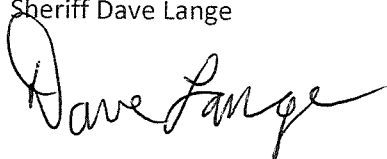
As demands on local law enforcement resources continues to increase, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. Particularly in southern Minnesota, there is a gap in resources which creates inefficiencies and causes delays in investigating cases and analyzing evidence. Our officers/deputies are required to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for different investigative services and to submit evidence for forensic testing. This takes officers off the streets and away from preventing and solving crimes. Our agency partners with the BCA on investigations that require specialized services such examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video and 3-D scanner analysis. Having access to these types of resources in closer proximity is critical to the success of our investigations and will allow my officers to be more efficient.

Reducing turnaround times for evidence processing is equally critical to the successful investigation and prosecution of these cases. Having a laboratory located more proximally to our agency creates efficiencies with a more effective approach. We rely on BCA forensics testing to further our criminal investigations and it’s critical to our own service delivery to have adequate laboratory capacity and this new laboratory is an important piece of those resources.

Lastly, training our peace officers/deputies is an important aspect of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota at these facilities is important to my agency to help reduce staffing challenges and costs while we have our officers/deputies attend important training closer to home.

We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.”

Sheriff Dave Lange





Waseca County Sheriff's Office

JAY S. DULAS, SHERIFF

04/05/2024

Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

I'm writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

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We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sheriff Jay Dulas'.

Sheriff Jay Dulas
Waseca County Sheriff's Office

122 Third Avenue NW • P.O. Box 226 • Waseca, MN 56093

Dispatch 507-835-0500 • Administration 507-835-0510 • Jail 507-835-0508

Dispatch Fax 507-835-0678



Nobles County Sheriff's Office

1530 Airport Rd, Suite 100
Worthington MN 56187
(507) 295-5400
(507) 372-5977 FAX

Ryan Kruger, Sheriff
Melissa Einck, Chief Deputy
Dan Bosman Jail Administrator

April 4, 2024

Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee

I'm writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

As demands on local law enforcement resources continues to increase, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. Particularly in southern Minnesota, there is a gap in resources which creates inefficiencies and causes delays in investigating cases and analyzing evidence. Our officers/deputies are required to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for different investigative services and to submit evidence for forensic testing. This takes officers off the streets and away from preventing and solving crimes. Our agency partners with the BCA on investigations that require specialized services such examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video and 3-D scanner analysis. Having access to these types of resources in closer proximity is critical to the success of our investigations.

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We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support."

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Kruger".

Sheriff Ryan Kruger

Nobles County Sheriff's Office



Nobles County Sheriff's Office

1530 Airport Rd, Suite 100
Worthington MN 56187
(507) 295-5400
(507) 372-5977 FAX

Ryan Kruger, Sheriff
Melissa Einck, Chief Deputy
Dan Bosman Jail Administrator

April 4, 2024

Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

I'm writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA Bemidji facility.

As demands on local law enforcement resources continues to increase, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. Particularly in southern Minnesota, there is a gap in resources which creates inefficiencies and causes delays in investigating cases and analyzing evidence. Our officers/deputies are required to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for different investigative services and to submit evidence for forensic testing. This takes officers off the streets and away from preventing and solving crimes. Our agency partners with the BCA on investigations that require specialized services such examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video and 3-D scanner analysis. Having access to these types of resources in closer proximity is critical to the success of our investigations.

Reducing turnaround times for evidence processing is equally critical to the successful investigation and prosecution of these cases. Having a laboratories located more proximally to our agency creates efficiencies with a more effective approach. We rely on BCA forensics testing to further our criminal investigations and it's critical to our own service delivery to have adequate laboratory capacity and this new laboratory is an important piece of those resources.

Lastly, training our peace officers/deputies is an important aspect of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota at these facilities is important to my agency to help reduce staffing challenges and costs while we have our officers/deputies attend important training.

We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support."

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Kruger".

Sheriff Ryan Kruger
Nobles County Sheriff's Office



BECKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Todd Glander • Sheriff

OFFICE: 925 Lake Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Phone 218-847-2661 • Fax 218-847-1604

JAIL: 1428 Stony Road

Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Phone 218-847-2939 • Fax 218-846-2580

April 5, 2024

Chair Pappas and Members, Senate Capital Investment Committee
Chair Lee and Members, House Capital Investment Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing today to express support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for a new BCA facility in southern Minnesota and for design funds to expand the current BCA facility in Bemidji.

As demands on local law enforcement resources continue to rise, our agency relies more heavily on the BCA to assist in complex investigations and process evidence more quickly. In southern Minnesota, there is a gap in resources which creates inefficiencies and causes delays in investigating cases and analyzing evidence. Law enforcement personnel are required to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for different investigative services and to submit evidence for forensic testing. This takes officers off the streets and away from their duties including preventing and solving crimes. Our agency partners with the BCA on investigations that require specialized services such as examination of digital evidence and enhanced audio, video, and 3-D scanner analysis. Having access to these types of resources in closer proximity is critical to the success of our investigations.

Decreasing evidence processing times is equally critical to successful investigations and case prosecution. Having a laboratory located more proximally to our agency creates efficiencies with a more effective approach. We rely on BCA forensics testing to further our criminal investigations, and it is critical for our own service delivery to have adequate laboratory capacity and this new laboratory is an important piece of those resources.

Lastly, training our peace officers/deputies is an important aspect of any law enforcement agency. Having more training in greater Minnesota at these facilities is important to my agency to help reduce staffing challenges and costs while we have our officers/deputies attend important training.

We consider the BCA to be a key state partner and urge you to fund these BCA projects that will provide significant benefits to law enforcement and public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Todd Glander
Becker County Sheriff's Office



Alcohol
and Gambling
Enforcement

Bureau of
Criminal
Apprehension

Driver
and Vehicle
Services

Emergency
Communication
Networks

Homeland
Security and
Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire
Marshal

Office of the Commissioner

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 1000 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5100
Phone: 651.201-7160 • Fax: 651.297.5728 • TTY: 651.282.6555
www.dps.state.mn.us

April 14, 2021

Dear Chair Moran and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

A tragedy has occurred in our community. All eyes are again on Minnesota for a death that didn't have to happen. Policy changes are well and good but it is investment that will turn the tide here. Investment in our youth. Investment in stable housing. Investment in training. Investment in a mental health system that works for first responders and community members.

For the Department of Public Safety budget, I implore you to invest in our Juvenile Justice Unit. Do not wait until the system has captured our children, invest in the prevention efforts that disrupt the cycle of violence in our homes and communities.

I also ask you make the investment in the 24/7 fusion center. We all want peaceful protestors, disruptors in the form of anarchists, arsonists and white supremacists are a very real and present threat to peaceful demonstrations here in Minnesota. We must have the appropriate resources to meet this threat and the space to facilitate collaboration amongst our partners.

The depth and breadth of the grant opportunities you fund in this budget with ongoing funding are absolutely critical to reducing violence in communities throughout Minnesota. There is no one size fits all solution but together these programs will make a difference in Minnesotans lives and improve the safety of our communities.

Finally, this bill includes important reform efforts that pushes the state to lean forward into envisioning a public safety strategy that looks and feels different. Change is hard and produces anxiety – we can acknowledge that - however the status quo cannot stand.

I look forward to working with the House and Senate in putting together a public safety package that invests in the infrastructure in place, moves forward the evolution of policing and provides new opportunities to engage with our youth to break the cycle of violence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Harrington".

John M. Harrington
Commissioner- Department of Public Safety