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March 3, 2023

Chair Klevorn and Members of the House State & Local Government 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 HF1231, a bill to provide grant funding to perpetuate the public land survey system monuments.

AMC and MCEA represent all of Minnesota's 87 counties and county engineers across the state. Counties manage over 44,500 miles of county highways statewide. A vast majority of county roads are related to and described using the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) in Minnesota.

Our members are concerned about the deterioration of the PLSS. Over time, PLSS monuments have been lost, damaged, or misplaced. The PLSS is the basis for all real property descriptions and a foundational infrastructure that impacts both rural and urban areas, businesses and governmental agencies, property owners and tenants. As such, we would like to share our support for the re-monumentation and mapping of the Public Land Survey System as proposed by the Minnesota Society of Professional Land Surveyors and Minnesota Association of County Surveyors. Our county organizations also support the funding provided in HF1231 for the re-monumentation of the PLSS and we desire to be a partner in the process to complete this important task.

We want to thank Representative Freiberg, Chair Klevorn, and members of the committee for recognizing the importance of the PLSS. Thank you for your consideration and support of HF1231.

Sincerely,

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

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