



February 22, 2021

Representative Gene Pelowski
Chair, House Industrial Education and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee
491 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: H.F. 444 (Pelowski) - State-declared disaster definition restricted to exclude civil unrest

Dear Chair Pelowski,

On behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities and our 835 member cities, I am writing to respectfully oppose H.F. 444 (Pelowski), a bill that modifies the definition of state-declared disasters to exclude civil unrest. In November 2020, the League of Minnesota Cities Board of Directors adopted the following policy position, which is part of the League's 2021 legislative platform:

FF-39. State Fund for Non-weather-related Disaster/Catastrophe Relief

Issue: Municipalities and other governmental units are at risk of experiencing disastrous events affecting their communities beyond natural disasters, whether from civil disturbances, industrial catastrophes, or other disastrous events. Such events may result in unbudgeted and unfunded costs related to clean-up, repairs, "social" and economic recovery, infrastructure restoration, rebuilding structures, and other damage repair which may not be qualify for relief from Federal resources. While some limited State resources may be available, cities do not have the resources to respond to such disasters.

Response: The League of Minnesota Cities supports the creation of a state fund to assist local communities in repair and response to these disastrous events with the ultimate goal of preserving jobs, industries, and communities.

If you have any questions about the League's position on this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Finn".

Anne Finn
Assistant Intergovernmental Relations Director