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Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

To the Members of the Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

I am writing against HF 1253. This is because of the bill's clear effect of lowering voter turnout.

Reducing the days allowed to turn in and mail ballots will reduce the amount of counted votes. The less time there is to vote and mail a ballot, the less time the postal service has to deliver a ballot. Additionally reducing the time allowed reduces the availability of various ballot curing and other amendment processes that Minnesota allows. Another major issue is not allowing delivery of ballots to a polling station after 3pm on an election day. Why should some have to turn in a ballot before 3, when others could vote until 8? Overall this bill exists to reduce turnout, the very opposite of what the state prides itself on, and as such should not pass. 1,271,636 Minnesotans submitted absentee ballots in last year's election¹. Why make it harder to let all of these people participate?

I urge you to vote against this bill,
Paul Allenburg

1. Minnesota Secretary of State. Data from 11/5/24
<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/election-administration-campaigns/data-maps/absentee-data/>