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House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Members,

HF3490 adds further legislation to human remains. The DE Amendment fails to treat all human remains with dignity. Please remove the clause regarding to “incidental” real estate transaction. Regardless of how the bones are found, all deserve dignified handling by professionals.

I urge the removal of the clause addressing “incidental” finds. With removal of this provision, there is protection for all human remains, those left in a home in a shoebox in the attic or those discovered in the process of adding a swimming pool, tilling a new garden, or excavating a foundation for a new building.

The US - Dakota War created hundreds of unmarked graves throughout the MN River Valley. For example, the Kochendorfers were discovered during fence installation. Their children were notified and the couple was laid to rest in Oakland Cemetery in St. Paul, MN. There are more to be discovered and given dignity and peace.

Thank you for treating all human remains with respect and dignity regardless of how the discovery is made.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Chappell