



# Association of Minnesota Counties

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March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**RE: Support for HF 1814**

Dear House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee Chair, Rep. Paul Novotny and Committee Members:

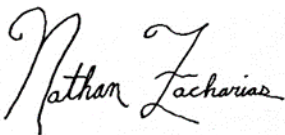
**On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), a voluntary association representing all 87 counties, we want to thank you for considering HF 1814 and inform you of our support for this bill.**

The Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) is the backbone of public safety communication infrastructure in the State of Minnesota. ARMER radios are used statewide by first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel to communicate and to serve those in need. Having effective communication tools, such as radios, is essential to successfully provide public safety and saves lives in communities throughout the State.

Radios that serve the ARMER system are outdated in many jurisdictions. Counties and other local jurisdictions struggle to fund the maintenance and replacement costs for this vital piece of public safety infrastructure. Local governments often operate on tight budgets, especially in greater Minnesota where the need for radio communications is greatest. Planning for the costly process of replacing this critical infrastructure has proven difficult for local governments. State assistance is necessary to keep our emergency communications up to date and we urge the state to fund a grant program for local jurisdictions to upgrade ARMER radios. We also encourage the Legislature to identify a sustainable funding model to support ongoing replacement and long-term planning for ARMER equipment and infrastructure maintenance.

**AMC supports HF 1814 and the \$4 million in grants to local government units included in the bill.**

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our perspective.



Nathan Zacharias, Technology Policy Analyst  
*Association of Minnesota Counties*



Emilio Lamba, Public Safety & Corrections Policy Analyst  
*Association of Minnesota Counties*