



March 21, 2023

Representative Dave Lislegard
Chair, House Property Tax Division
451 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: H.F. 1377 (Property Tax Division Report)

Dear Chair Lislegard,

Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC) supports passage of H.F. 1377, the House Property Tax Division Report, which will provide a much needed and long awaited increase of County Program Aid.

County Program Aid is a top legislative priority for MRC and a crucial part of Minnesota property tax relief. MRC joins the chorus of all 87 Minnesota counties advocating for this increase. County Program Aid funding is at the same level today as it was 20 years ago, this program has failed to keep up with rising costs and budget pressures that counties face. Property taxes are a heavier burden for our low and fixed income residents, and without adequate state aid counties are forced to rely upon property taxes to provide state-mandated services.

County Program Aid is a vital component in the county-state partnership and an increase would allow counties to serve their communities without overtaxing them. The bill's appropriation and link to inflation would help make certain that all counties could continue to meet the needs of their residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Luke Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Commissioner Luke Johnson, Pipestone County
Chair, Minnesota Rural Counties

cc: House Property Tax Division members