



April 11, 2019

Representative Michael Nelson, Chair  
House State Government Finance Division  
585 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Nelson,

I write to thank you for your support in House File 1935 for the Governor's budget recommendations in the area of cybersecurity and IT project and program management.

If ultimately enacted into law, funding of MNIT's "Secure the State" change item will support crucial investments in cyber tools, services, and staff that would fill critical gaps in the State's cyber defenses. This appropriation would also fund and accelerate ongoing efforts to reduce the State's overall cyber-attack surface by reducing the number of data centers, which currently stands at 16. With cyber-attacks on state government increasing in sophistication and frequency, it's imperative that we come together now to protect Minnesota's IT systems and the sensitive citizen data they house. While we recognize the need to balance this request with the many other worthy investments included in your bill, we ask that you consider increasing this appropriation by \$497,000 in order to fully fund the Governor's recommendation in the area of cybersecurity.

We also greatly appreciate the full funding of the Governor's recommendations in the area of IT project and program management. With over 350 projects ongoing in the executive branch at any time, it is critical that MNIT strengthen its oversight of agency-based software development, as recommended by the Office of the Legislative Auditor. There are currently three staff in MNIT's enterprise project management office that perform this enterprise-level oversight work. Without additional staffing, they are not positioned to effectively enforce compliance with IT project best practices, such as risk assessment and mitigation activities, across a project portfolio as large and diverse as that of the State's executive branch.

The investment in IT project management funds eight new FTEs to oversee this portfolio of projects, in addition to funding private sector consulting services to analyze gaps in our project management oversight processes, develop and implement an improvement plan, and conduct periodic reviews of program progress.

As it relates to the provisions of the bill related to the Legislature's compliance with state technology accessibility standards, we at MNIT are happy to assist in these compliance efforts using current resources, tools, and training already developed by the department; however, as a fee-for-service

organization, our capacity to assist in the development of applications at no charge would be quite limited.

Thank you for recognizing these fundamental resource needs at Minnesota IT Services. I am available to answer additional questions or provide any information you may need as budget deliberations continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Poirier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".

Bill Poirier  
Acting Commissioner and State Chief Information Officer

CC: Rep. Andrew Carlson, Rep. Tony Albright