



March 20, 2019

The Honorable Representative Freiberg
Chair, Government Operations Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
509 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Olmsted County Support for HF 132

Dear Chair Freiberg and Government Operations Committee Members:

On behalf of Olmsted County, we would like to express our strong support for HF 132 (Masin) which provides an opportunity for local governments to field test new state administered information technology systems prior to implementation. Olmsted County has experienced tremendous frustrations and inefficiencies while using newly implemented state technology systems such as the Minnesota Eligibility Technology System (METS).

METS has proven to be technologically inefficient requiring Olmsted County to invest in eight new staff to ensure productivity requirements are met. Experienced County eligibility staff also lack confidence in METS and are concerned manual work-arounds are leading to integrity issues that new, less-experienced staff may not catch. The State and Counties' experiences with systems like METS, would have been greatly improved if the system had been field tested.

Field testing with end users is what technology companies do as a key component of product development. It is hard to understand why the State of Minnesota would allow any major technology platform to be developed without field testing with end users. Please take steps to assure that becomes the State's practice.

Olmsted County supports passage of HF 132, providing the opportunity for local governments to field test new technology systems to help us serve our residents more efficiently and effectively. Thank you for your consideration of HF 132 and we respectfully ask for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ken Brown, Chair
Olmsted County Legislative Committee