



February 11, 2025

The Honorable Josh Heintzman  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
Centennial Office Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Peter Fischer  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
Centennial Office Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Support HF 8**

Chair Heintzman and Lead Fischer,

On behalf of Greater Mankato Growth, the chamber of commerce and economic development organization representing more than 900 members in the greater Mankato region, I write to share our support for HF 8 in order to improve the permitting process in Minnesota.

The mission of Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) is to support and promote the economic growth and vitality of our members and the regional marketplace. As a growing, dynamic greater Minnesota metro hub, private investment is the cornerstone of that growth. However, we have seen investment steered away from Minnesota in recent years as the complicated permitting process creates significant delays and uncertainty, making businesses wary of investing in our state. In order for our region to continue to see private investment and growth in our regional economy, the business climate and permitting process must be improved to create more certainty, transparency, and accountability while still maintaining the natural resources that make Minnesota a special place to live and do business.

Greater Mankato Growth is a proud partner in economic development as part of the Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA) which includes the cities of Mankato, North Mankato, and 4 additional communities along with Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties. In this partnership, we promote an atmosphere of cooperation, leveraging our unique strengths, and providing efficient and effective service delivery in order to facilitate continued economic prosperity of our region. Unfortunately, we have seen several businesses wait more than a year for a Part 70 Major Amendment permit to be issued. This is untenable. Minnesota needs to improve its processes in order to better serve the business community and the citizens of Minnesota who want to see business and job growth in our state. This bill makes a big leap forward in that effort.

We urge you to support HF 8.

Respectfully,

Andy Wilke  
Executive Vice President