



March 14, 2022

Rep. Frank Hornstein
Transportation Finance and Policy Committee Chair
MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
545 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

SUBJECT: HF2771 (Becker-Finn) - County speed limits authorized.

Dear Rep. Hornstein:

The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MnSPE), an affiliate state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers, is a statewide professional association that provides professional engineering development and professional engineer licensure advocacy for all engineering disciplines and industries in Minnesota, as well as outreach and leadership supporting Minnesota's future STEM workforce. MnSPE is the leading voice of licensed professional engineers in Minnesota. Our members include professional engineers, experienced career engineers, early career engineers, and students that covers a diverse range of engineering disciplines and industries.

The MnSPE Legislative Advocacy Committee was recently made aware of HF2771 which proposes changes to state law that specifically includes language that states that speed limits may be set by a local road jurisdiction "*without conducting an engineering and traffic investigation*". MnSPE does not support the existing statute language or the proposed language changes within Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 169.14, subdivision 5h, that allow for speed limit changes without an investigation, review, and recommendation from a licensed professional engineer. MnSPE was not made aware until recently of the statute change in 2020 that included language that didn't require an engineering investigation. MnSPE believes in a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professional engineers.

MnSPE strongly opposes state laws that include language that exempts work that should be completed by or under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer in responsible charge to safeguard the health and safety of the public. Having a licensed professional engineer in responsible charge presents the best-case scenario for protecting public health and safety. MnSPE urges the Transportation Finance and Policy Committee and state legislators to prioritize public safety by removing this engineering license exemption for a local road jurisdiction from Minnesota Statutes 169.14, subdivision 5h and to eliminate further exemptions.

MnSPE understands the background behind this specific statute change and feel that there are ways to include licensed professional engineers in speed limit changes to provide recommendations to each local road jurisdiction. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss with you as to how



licensed professional engineers should be included in this process. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please reach out to me at dmielke@co.carver.mn.us or (952) 465-6795.

Sincerely,

MINNESOTA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darin Mielke", is written over a horizontal line.

Darin Mielke, PE
MnSPE Legislative Advocacy Chair

dm/kn

cc: Kerby Nester, President MnSPE
Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn
Rep. Sydney Jordan