



March 18, 2026

Chair Paul Novotny, Chair Kelly Moller and Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

RE: HF 3547-- Manufacture, sale, and use of fireworks regulated; and portion of revenues from the sale of fireworks dedicated to public safety purposes

Dear Chair Novotny, Chair Kelly and Members of the Houe Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of our 842 member cities, the League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HF 3547. The League respectfully opposes HF 3547, a bill that would expand the allowable sale and use of consumer fireworks in Minnesota to include aerial and explosive devices. The League of Minnesota Cities opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- Fireworks are inherently dangerous. They cause serious injuries, dangerous fires and expensive property damage.
- The fireworks allowed under this bill will impact neighborhoods and communities. Aerial fireworks travel uncontrolled and, typically, away from the person who lights them. They can reach neighboring properties, homes, roads, businesses, public buildings, public lands, lakes and innocent bystanders. Likewise, noise travels. The increased use of fireworks will create conflicts between neighbors over noise, debris and property damage. Cities will be left trying to help people resolve these disputes and will have more difficulty if the offending fireworks are legal.
- The bill increases financial burdens for property taxpayers. Expanded sale and use of consumer fireworks will increase local enforcement costs and fire calls and will generate nuisance complaints. Local public safety personnel will expend time and effort to respond to fireworks related incidents at the expense of property taxpayers.

Historically, the only proponents of expanding allowable fireworks in Minnesota have been fireworks industry representatives. They have claimed Minnesota will reap economic benefits from expanding the sale and use of consumer fireworks. The proponents have demonstrated disregard for the concerns of the state's fire chiefs, medical professionals and law enforcement officials, who have argued that the cost to control accidental fires, treat serious injuries and enforce the new law will outweigh any economic benefit the state stands to gain.

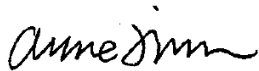
Proponents have also claimed that this legislation will make Minnesota more like surrounding states with regard to fireworks laws. This is simply not true. As just one example, the Wisconsin

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law requires a permit for purchasing and using fireworks. According to Wis. Stat. § 167.10 (3)(a), “No person may possess or use fireworks without a user's permit from the mayor of the city, president of the village or chairperson of the town in which the possession or use is to occur or from a person designated by the mayor, president or chairperson to issue a user's permit.”

The League remains steadfastly convinced that there are very real dangers related to aerial and explosive fireworks. If this bill becomes law, there will be negative consequences, and the problems that will result will rest on the shoulders of local units of government, their employees and their taxpayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Finn".

Anne Finn
Intergovernmental Relations Director