



Dedicated to a Strong Greater Minnesota

March 23, 2026

Co-Chairs Heintzeman and Fischer and members of the Environmental and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC), an organization of more than 110 cities located outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area to offer our support for H.F. 4264. We support the language of this bill as an important effort to balance the concerns of cities of different sizes throughout the state.

Article 7, Section 1, of this bill updates the timing for wastewater permits (more formally known as national pollutant discharge elimination system, or NPDES) permits that reflect the concerns of both large and small communities by doing the following:

- It allows a wastewater permit applicant to waive the requirement that it receives a draft copy of the permit and any supporting fact sheets if it so chooses. (Lines 1.18)
- It allows the commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to reduce the comment period for a wastewater permit if requested by the applicant AND after the commissioner has considered the impact on the public or tribal interest. (Lines 2.4 – 2.8)

This approach would allow more sophisticated facilities that do not require additional notice and time to move forward expeditiously with their wastewater permits, while protecting smaller facilities that may not have the resources to act and respond as quickly. We believe such an approach is protective of Minnesota's waters as well as the communities that seek to safeguard those waters.

It's also important to note that even though Co-Chair Heintzeman is the author of this bill, nearly identical language was carried last year by Co-Chair Fischer, demonstrating the bipartisan support for this effort. We urge the committee to move this bill forward to passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Wefel
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities