



March 26, 2021

Representative Frank Hornstein
Chair, House Transportation Finance and Policy
545 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 273: Statewide freight network optimization tool

Chair Hornstein and Esteemed Committee Members,

On behalf of Medical Alley Association and its more than 600 members that make up Minnesota's health innovation and care industry, we are writing in support of House File 273. This bill creates a tool that could be utilized by health innovation and care organizations to enhance and streamline their transportation network, resulting in a more stable supply chain and lower costs for patients.

2020 brought extraordinary challenges for businesses in all industries in every corner of our state. As we look to move past the pandemic and the economic effects it has brought, we must look to find ways to increase jobs and economic development to our state. Minnesota must provide a business environment that attracts investment and increases the opportunity for health technology and care organizations to succeed. This bill takes a step towards meeting that challenge.

Optimization tools are used by private organizations to streamline supply chains, determine site selection, and reduce costs. Similarly, other states – such as Iowa – are already using a similar tool to improve synergies between highway, railway, airports, and barge networks, as well as to show companies how locating there can reduce transportation and supply chain costs relative to other states. Minnesota can use this tool to help inform decisions around public infrastructure investments, economic development, and business attraction and expansion. Additionally, this tool could be used to strengthen the development of key industry clusters in the state, such as medical device and biotechnology, a key factor in solidifying Minnesota as the Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care.

Medical Alley Association strongly supports House File 273 and urges its inclusion as part of any finance bill moving forward this session.

Sincerely,

Lilly Melander

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association