

February 9, 2023

Chair Nelson, Republican Lead McDonald and Members of the House Labor and Industry Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the 29,000 members and family members of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota, I am writing in support of the Helmets to Hardhats program and appropriation request (HF 284 and SF 773).

As you may know, Helmets to Hardhats is a national, nonprofit program that connects transitioning active-duty military service members, veterans, National Guard and Reservists with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry. Helmets to Hardhats Minnesota works with the national program and Minnesota Building and Construction Trades to provide easy access to the program. Together, we work to recruit, retain, assist and support career training and employment in the building and construction industry.

HF 284 would appropriate \$227,500 in FY2024 and \$227,500 in FY2025 from the workforce development fund to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry for grants to Building Strong Communities for the Helmets to Hardhats Minnesota initiative.

LIUNA Minnesota is committed to expanding union construction career opportunities for veterans. The men and women who serve our country have earned the opportunity to build America and work in high-quality, family-supporting careers in construction. We urge your continued support of and investment in the Helmets to Hardhats Minnesota program and our veterans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Joel Smith  
President and Business Manager  
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota