April 10, 2025

Honorable Jon Koznick
Honorable Erin Koegel
Minnesota House of Representatives
Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF2438

Dear Chair Koznick, Chair Koegel and the members of the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Safety Council supports the traffic safety provisions of HF2438 as amended. While traffic fatalities have marginally decreased below recent levels, the potential for injury and death on our roadways remains one of the highest, preventable health risks for Minnesotans.

We specifically support increased funding for the traffic safety activities and operations of the Advisory Council on Traffic Safety and the drug evaluation and classification program. Each of these efforts leads to prevention of crashes which is the ultimate goal. Over $15,000,000 in grants to prevent crashes and change driver behavior were rapidly utilized in the past two years. We urge you to consider increased spending on these programs and funding the Traffic Safety Data Analytics Center.

We would also like to recognize that many of the initiatives and programs supported by HF2438 contribute to traffic safety. This includes everything from new roadway construction and pavement maintenance to efforts like Safe Routes to School, work zone education for new drivers and traffic calming. All of these efforts combine engineering with education backed by enforcement, and lead to safer roadways.

Thank you for your time and attention to roadway issues. The rough numbers are eye opening:

Every five days…

- 6 Minnesotans die on the roads (4 outside the metro area) and…
- 300 suffer injuries in…
- 900 crashes with an estimated $28,000,000 of economic impact.

We can do better. We ask you to continue supporting the traffic safety efforts contained in HF2438.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Aasen   and   Lisa Kons
CEO   Traffic Safety and Advocacy Manager

Cc: Joe Marble, Matt Baumann