

May 1, 2023

Representative Jenny Klevorn, Chair
House State and Local Government Finance
and Policy
581 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Erin Murphy, Chair
Senate State and Local Government and
Veterans
3211 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Klevorn, Chair Murphy and HF1830 Conferees,

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) represents Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties including four suburban and eleven Greater Minnesota counties.

Thank you, Chair Klevorn and Chair Murphy and conferees for your work on HF1830 (budget) and HF1826 (policy) provisions. As you meet to resolve differences between the House and Senate provisions, we want to express support for and the inclusion of the following provisions:

- **HF1830 – House Article 1, section 10 (a) and Senate Article 1, section 9 (a), as well as House Article 2, Section 42 and Senate Article 4, section 9**, providing \$2.2 million in FY2024 and \$3.5 million in FY2025 for grants to county governments to help address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats. This funding will help ensure local governments can fully leverage federal and local resources in response to evolving cybersecurity challenges.
- **HF1830 – House Article 1, section 10 (h) and Senate Article 1, section 9 (j), as well as with Article 2, section 50 and Senate Article 3, section 40**, appropriating \$16 million in FY2024 and \$4 million in FY2025 for public land survey system monument grant program, along with \$1 million each year for grants to counties to employ county technical staff.
- **HF1830 – House Article 1, section 13 (d)** providing funding to help proactively raise awareness about the capital budget process and provide technical assistance around the requirements associated with the capital budget process and receiving general fund or general obligation bond funding for capital projects.
- **HF1826 – House Article 1, section 29 and HF1830-UE, Article 3, section 13**, creating the Office of Environment Sustainability at the Department of Administration with the inclusion of subdivision 3, providing for the sharing of tools and best practices with local governments.

- **HF1826 – House Article 3, Section 1** – allowing a limited medical exception to the state Open Meeting Law. Like all people, local elected officials occasionally experience personal or family medical circumstances for which their doctor may recommend they not be in public. The proposed change allows for a narrow exception to participate in official meetings from a non-public location up to three times per year. Current law provides multiple technology and process guardrails to ensure transparency while also accommodating elected officials as they deal with personal medical challenges.
- **HF1826 – House Article 3, Section 2 - 5 and Senate Article 2, sections 1 - 4** – providing expanded investment authority for certain local governments. Legislation enacted in 2017 created limited long-term equity investment authority under Minn. Stats, 118A.09, along with meaningful guardrails to prudent use of those investment options. That legislation, however, limited authority to jurisdictions that have populations greater than 100,000 or that have the highest category bond rating by a national rating. HF1826 would allow jurisdictions with AA-credit rating to also utilize this equity investment authority and apply the same guardrails as already required under current law, including adopting and following an approved investment policy and limitations on the type and amount of local funds held in equity investments and the type of investment products that can be purchased.
- **HF1826 – House Article 3, Section 14 and 17, para. (b), and Senate Article 3, section 14 and sec 17 (a)** repealing the local government compensation cap, a state limitation that is unique to Minnesota.

Additionally, as key partners in implementing state policy and program priorities, the work of county governments intersects with multiple state agencies and state technology systems. We support one-time funding to help ensure modern, effective, and secure state technologies, particularly for those systems that county governments also must utilize to implement state mandates across a variety of program areas.

Thank you for your collective commitment to supporting a strong partnership between state and local governments, and for your consideration of these provisions as you resolve differences between House and Senate omnibus bills.



Matt Massman, *Executive Director*
Minnesota Inter-County Association