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March 10, 2022

Chair Frank Hornstein
House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
545 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hornstein and Committee Members,

Associated General Contractors of Minnesota (AGC of MN) is a non-profit, construction industry trade association dedicated to promoting opportunity and excellence in the building and highway construction industries through Minnesota. Our 400+ members include general contractors, specialty contractors, and affiliated businesses who have a vested interest in these industries.

AGC of MN appreciates the opportunity to engage and advocate for HF 3600 (Long) – excavation system performance reporting. One of AGC's goals is to prioritize worker safety, the general public, and utility infrastructure. A recent national survey conducted by the Associated General Contractors of America found significant flaws in the current 811 utility location system. Nationally, most contractors said that calling 811 often leads to inaccurate line marking and that utility firms are often very slow in coming out to locate and mark underground lines. Our contractors in Minnesota report the same frustrations.

HF 3600 is a good first step in addressing this problem. The bill requires reporting and collection of data regarding the current excavation notice system. We look forward to working with the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety to analyze the data and find ways to reduce the flaws in the current system.

AGC of MN is committed to the goal of ensuring worker safety and underground damage prevention.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and we look forward to working with you on future initiatives and legislation.

Sincerely,

Laura Ziegler
Director of Highway/Heavy and Government Affairs