

March 3, 2025

**Re: HF 554**

Dear Elections and Government Operations Committee Chair, Rep. Duane Quam and committee members,

We the below signed local government organizations wish to express strong concerns with HF554.

Cities, counties and other local governments strive every day to be transparent, responsive to our residents and as helpful as possible when assisting interested parties with service questions, information requests and instructions on how to comply with local government requirements.

Local governments have interactive websites, automated services, service numbers, instructional documents and well-trained staff to guide those that interact with them so that those requesting assistance can get the help they need. Our employees are public servants and take pride in serving their communities.

We believe that a well-run and responsive local government includes many avenues for information and explanation of the work we do, why it's important, and how residents, businesses and other interested parties can successfully interact on the processes they care about.

We believe the requirements in HF554 are unclear and are concerned that they would overload local government departments that are often stretched thin. We also believe they are redundant to services, information practices and requirements that are already available or easily retrievable with a simple email, phone call, or in-person visit. Finally, we believe that HF 554 would draw significant financial resources away from core government services as well as place an administrative burden on departments that lack such capacity to comply with the mandates included in the bill.

We freely acknowledge that not every interaction with local governments is easy, quick or without complication. This is especially true when dealing with human-centered, personally affected issues that are complicated, time-intensive and sometimes frankly controversial. However, we don't believe that placing large blanket requirements on every process, procedure and personnel action will improve local government responsiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on HF 554 with the committee.



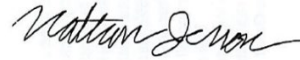
Pierre Willette  
League of Minnesota Cities



Nathan Zacharias  
Association of Minnesota Counties



Cap O'Rourke  
Minnesota Association of Small Cities



Nathan Jesson  
Minnesota Inter-County Association



Bradley Peterson  
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities



Michael Stalberger  
Minnesota Association of County Officers



Jim Hovland  
Municipal Legislative Commission



Neil Peterson  
Minnesota Rural Counties



Patricia Nauman  
Metro Cities (Association of Metropolitan Municipalities)