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January 13, 2023

Chair Ginny Klevorn and Committee Members of the
House State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee

Re: Letter of Support for HF 29 Attorney General Appropriations

Dear Committee Chair Klevorn and Members of the Committee:

The Attorney General's (AG's) appropriations request (HF 29) is being heard in your committee on January 17th. In my capacity as Winona County Attorney, Chair of the Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and a member of the MCAA Executive Council and Board of Directors, I am submitting this letter to express my support for the AG's request as contained in HF 29.

The AG's Office under Attorney General Ellison's leadership has been and continues to be a vital partner to County Attorney Offices across the state. I know this firsthand. My staff and I have worked with AG Ellison and his staff on multiple matters during the past four years. Funding to expand the AG's office to hire seven full-time attorneys and two legal assistants is critical to the effective prosecution of criminal cases across the state, particularly so in Greater Minnesota, where many County Attorney Offices have **only** one, two, or three attorneys.

By supporting HF 29, you will be making a smart investment in public safety and the delivery of justice in the places where it matters most, at the local level, in your home districts.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

Karin L. Sonneman
Winona County Attorney
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cc. Robert Small-MCAA Executive Director
Attorney General Keith Ellison
John Keller- AG's Office Chief of Staff