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100% Campaign
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April 13, 2021

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for the House Capital Investment omnibus bill: House File 337, as amended in A21-0158.

We make Minnesota by investing in people and places. The decisions we make about what to build, where to build, and how to build will shape the places we live, work, and recreate for decades. This bill is an opportunity to make Minnesota better connected, more equitable, and more sustainable. We support several of the bill's provisions.

First, we support adding climate resilience to our state sustainable building guidelines (38.20-38.22). This is a common-sense improvement. If we are investing for the future, we ought to make sure our buildings are prepared for the future, a future with increasing risks of more frequent and more extreme weather events.

Second, we support investing in electric vehicle charging infrastructure for the Metropolitan Council's electric transit fleet (13.23-13.34). This \$1m investment is a critical system upgrade that will support the Council's commitment to using a 100% electrified bus fleet by 2040.

Third, we support the \$5m capitalization of the State Building Energy Conservation Revolving Loan Fund (8.30-8.33, 36.26-38.7). The State of Minnesota can both lead by example and save money by making its own buildings more energy efficient using this one-time investment.

Fourth, we support improving infrastructure in areas damaged during civil unrest in 2020 (19.26-25.17). We have an opportunity as a state to make sure our recovery efforts from civil unrest (and from COVID-19) create communities that are more resilient and more prosperous than they were before these crises. This bill's focus on a) building and wage standards and b) local residents and minority small business owners is particularly important. We should aim to have an inclusive recovery with broadly shared benefits.

Fifth, we support the bill's transit improvements. The passenger rail (11.2-11.17) and bus rapid transit (13.17-13.22) investments would provide more Minnesotans with more options for both traveling around the state and region and for making shorter trips for work or shopping.

Sixth, we support the bill's improvements to our State Forest Nursery and investments in reforestation (4.21-5.3). These investments meet multiple bottom lines: creating jobs, improving our lands, developing economic opportunities, and, eventually, sequestering carbon.

Seventh, we support the bill's investments in low-income housing. Both the transfer of funds to the Housing Development Fund (17.20-18.6) and including multifamily rentals for low-income families and naturally occurring affordable housing (26.11-26.14, 27.22-27.27) in bonding will improve the homes of thousands of Minnesotans.

Finally, we appreciate the committee's focus on making equitable investments in a climate-adapted way. Both of these priorities will help ensure that our state's capital investments are sustainably built and of service to all Minnesotans.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
100% Campaign

cc: Rep. Liz Reyer, Rep. Mike Freiberg, Rep. Alice Hausman, Rep. Todd Lippert, Rep. Esther Agbaje