LEAGUE of MINNESOTA CITIES

May 13, 2020

Senator Julie Rosen
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155
Via email: sen.julie.rosen@senate.mn

Re: COVID-related Workers' Compensation Presumption Funding

Dear Senator Rosen:

On May 14, 2020, the Senate Finance Committee will be considering Senate File 4130. This bill was amended at a May 13 Senate State Finance and Policy and Elections Committee hearing to include funding for COVID-related workers' compensation claims.

As the Administrator of the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT), I am writing in support of this legislation. LMCIT is a self-insurance pool providing workers' compensation coverage to almost all cities and standalone police and fire departments in Minnesota, except for nine large self-insured ones. LMCIT is a public joint powers entity owned and managed by our member cities and is a sister entity to the League of Minnesota Cities, which provides research, training, and other services to cities.

We appreciate the Senate's role in using the initial presumption legislation to extend needed financial protection to the public safety and healthcare workers who are on the front lines in dealing with the pandemic. Our concerns about how to sustainably fund this prompted us to begin conversations with our colleagues at other local government pools and affected self-insured entities. That grew into a conversation with a wide range of stakeholders and ultimately led to the creation of this bill.

That group of stakeholders includes:

- League of Minnesota Cities/League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust
- Minnesota Association of Townships/Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust
- Association of Minnesota Counties/Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust
- Minnesota Inter-County Association
- Minnesota School Board Association
- Self-insured cities and counties
- Insurance Federation of Minnesota

- Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- Minnesota Hospital Association
- The Minnesota Employers Workers Compensation Alliance
- The Minnesota Self-Insurance Group
- Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association
- Minnesota Fire Chiefs Association
- Public safety labor organizations

The funding mechanism proposed in SF 4130 enjoys wide support among the members of this coalition. We understand the financial challenges facing the state and believe that as structured, the legislation would ensure that employers, insurers, self-insureds, and the State and Federal governments would all participate in an equitable solution that recognizes the importance of providing stability to a workers' compensation system that protects the people who are serving all of us who live and work in Minnesota. We strongly support its passage.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Greensweig
Administrator
League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust

Cc: Gary Carlson, League of Minnesota Cities