



Minnesota Utility Contractors Association

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April 29, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Minnesota House/Senate Omnibus Workforce and Business Development, Finance and Policy Bill Conference Committee

RE: Final Omnibus Considerations

The Minnesota Utility Contractors Association (MUCA) serves over 130 companies across Minnesota engaged in underground utility construction that installs and maintains our critical infrastructure necessary for life: including clean water, storm water drainage, sewer and wastewater systems, gas, electric, telecom, and other utilities.

### **Support Helmets to Hard Hats**

MUCA is in full support of providing funding for the Helmets to Hardhats Program. Workforce development has been a priority issue for the construction industry for many, many years. MUCA recognizes the needs of our industry for qualified workers matches beautifully with an opportunity for great careers for those who have served our country and thanks the House and Senate for including funding for this program in their bills.

### **Oppose MnOSHA Publishing Citations**

MUCA opposes the House provision to allow MnOSHA to publish citations as soon as an employer has received a citation. Though an employer may have been cited by MnOSHA, frequently that employer will be later found to have done no wrong. Unjustly publishing the citation and accusation of an employer before due process can be served will unfairly tarnish employer reputations that in most instances have taken decades of practice to establish. The language can be found on page R-12-A2 lines 164.17 – 164.24 of the side-by-side committee documents.

### **Oppose Employee Mandates**

MUCA also joins the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce in opposing imposing additional employer mandates such as:

- Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefit Insurance Program
- Earned sick and safe time including civil penalties
- Creating a new requirement that at least 85% of the employees of any contractor working at an oil refinery must have experience with a registered apprenticeship program in the applicable trade

MUCA members are some of the most generous and safety minded employers in Minnesota who enjoy a close employer/employee relationship. Additional employer mandates are unnecessary and punitive.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephanie Menning". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Stephanie Menning, CAE, IOM  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Utility Contractors Association

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**OUR MISSION**

To promote the underground utility industry by providing safety training, continuing education, scholarships and legislative relations.

**OUR VALUES**

Honest Communications  
Transparent Leadership  
Authentic Engagement