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January 22, 2025

Minnesota House of Representatives
Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
658 Cedar St.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

To Committee Chair Rep. Josh Heintzeman and Committee Members:

I am writing today on behalf of Jobs for Minnesotans, a coalition co-founded by the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and strengthened by labor unions, community leaders and business members from across the state. We represent 70,000 union workers, 6,300 companies and 500,000 employees in Minnesota.

On Thursday, January 23, the Minnesota House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee will hear testimony from the Minnesota Chamber Foundation regarding its "Streamlining Minnesota's Environmental Permitting Process Essential for Economic Growth" Study. Jobs for Minnesotans fully supports the findings and recommended outcomes of this study.

As a coalition, we have consistently advocated for a fair regulatory process – fair to the public, the government agencies and investors alike all while protecting the environment under the EPA and Minnesota's strict regulations. Without any of these, the regulatory process loses credibility and fairness for projects being reviewed in our state.

Currently, the permitting process for responsible industrial projects in Minnesota is lacking predictability, timeliness and transparency. Many projects across industries are experiencing shifting timelines and the delay of reviews, creating an unpredictable regulatory environment. As a result, investment that should be coming into our state has been diverted to other parts of the country.

This study underscores the need for broad permitting reform for all responsible industries in order to strengthen local communities, bring family-sustaining jobs to our state and power Minnesota and the nation's clean energy future.

Key aspects of permitting reform outlined in the Minnesota Chamber study include:

- Streamlining permitting processes to reduce delays and costs
- Enhancing transparency through increased accessibility of information for stakeholders and the public
- Ensuring reforms balance increasing efficiency in permitting processes while maintaining rigorous environmental standards and protections

We ask your committee to support the adoption of the recommendations and outcomes of this study and make broad permitting reform a priority this legislative session. It's critical for Minnesota to remain a leader in responsible industrial development while fostering opportunities for communities across the state.

Sincerely,



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Jobs for Minnesotans, a coalition representing business, labor and communities, supports statewide opportunities for prosperity and middle-class jobs from sustainable natural resource development in Minnesota. The organization is committed to the principle that our state can preserve both job opportunities and the environment for future generations. Jobs for Minnesotans was co-founded in 2012 by the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council representing 70,000 workers and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce representing 2,300 companies and 500,000 employees