



January 22, 2025

Representative Josh Heintzeman
House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Heintzeman and Committee Members:

On behalf of APEX, we support HF 8 as it advances collective efforts to make our regulatory process more efficient, timely, transparent and inclusive of all industry sectors.

APEX, a private sector-led business development organization, is dedicated to fostering sustainable growth in Northeast Minnesota and Northwest Wisconsin. Our investor-members comprise nearly 100 of the region's most influential organizations, all of whom share a deep commitment to business growth and community vitality.

Our work is about building relationships and collaborative problem-solving around key issues experienced by the businesses in our region. Regulation and permitting are key focus areas. In 2024, we participated in and led conversations on the Minnesota Chamber's "Streamlining Environmental Permitting" report, the MPCA's Cumulative Impacts state-wide community discussions, and collaborated with a variety of regional and state leaders to guide discussions, all part of understanding diverse stakeholder perspectives and ways we can improve. We proudly supported the bipartisan permitting reform provisions that became law last year.

Permitting timelines affect our state's economy and Minnesota would achieve meaningful economic gains if permit issuance timeframes were improved as measured by economic activity, household income and full-time jobs. We can streamline the process without compromising our high environmental standards.

We look forward to working on the implementation of the provisions of this bill. This is essential in transforming Minnesota into a more welcoming place. We need to provide the same regulatory certainty and timeliness to all key sectors, including agriculture, food processing, forestry, manufacturing, and mining. We can become a global economic leader.

APEX can connect and convene with state agencies, legislators and businesses to make improvements that benefit Northeast Minnesota and the entire state. Please call on APEX and its members to help work through these permitting improvements together.

We look forward to collaborating with you and your colleagues to improve permitting in our state this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel A. Johnson".

Rachel Johnson, APEX President & CEO
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