



Jan. 22, 2025

Josh Heintzeman

Chair

House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Commerce Committee

Chair Heintzeman and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council, representing over 70,000 skilled women and men in the construction industry across Minnesota, strongly supports HF8, the Permitting Reform bill being heard in committee on January 23rd. This bipartisan legislation represents a significant step forward in modernizing Minnesota's permitting process, creating a more efficient and predictable regulatory environment that will attract businesses to our state and generate well-paying jobs for our affiliates and their members.

The Building Trades' affiliate unions are a vital part of Minnesota's economy, contributing significantly to the state's infrastructure development and construction projects. However, the current permitting process can be excessively complex and time-consuming, leading to significant delays in the start of construction projects. These delays not only hinder economic growth and job creation but also create uncertainty for our members who rely on a steady stream of construction projects for their employment.

The "Permitting Reform" bill addresses these concerns by:

- **Streamlining the Process:** The bill incorporates measures to streamline permitting timelines and reduce administrative burdens. This will allow construction projects to move forward more quickly, creating a more efficient and predictable environment for the construction industry.
- **Attracting Business:** By creating a more efficient and predictable regulatory environment, this legislation will make Minnesota a more attractive destination for businesses looking to invest and expand. This increased business activity will directly translate into more construction projects and job opportunities for our members.

The Building Trades recognizes the importance of environmental stewardship and responsible development. We believe the Permitting Reform bill can achieve both by ensuring a more

efficient regulatory framework without compromising environmental protections or changing environmental standards.

We strongly supported the bipartisan permitting reform package that passed in 2024, and the Building Trades is excited to continue that work this year with another bipartisan packages

Sincerely,

Tom Dicklich  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council