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February 11, 2022

The Honorable Senator Carrie Ruud – Chair
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee
3233 Minnesota Senate Building
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: SENATE FILE 908/HOUSE FILE 2162

Dear Mrs. Chair and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Association of County Land Commissioners (MACLC) which represents fifteen northern Minnesota county land departments that are responsible for managing all aspects of 2.7 million acres of tax-forfeited lands within our respective counties appreciate the opportunity to voice our support of House File 2162.

Our organization, along with many other county governments across Minnesota have seen an increase in the number and severity of blighted and contaminated tax-forfeited properties in recent years. From abandoned gas stations to residential buildings that are severely in need of remediation, Senate File 908/House File 2162 would allow county boards the authority to place tax-forfeited revenue streams into an account solely dedicated to blight and contamination cleanup on tax-forfeited lands proactively. This would allow counties to plan and better address these issues when they arise. We believe Senate File 908/House File 2162 would give all counties in Minnesota added flexibility in dealing with these issues that unfortunately have trended in the wrong direction in recent years.

We respectfully ask for your support of Senate File 908/House File 2162 and appreciate the opportunity to provide the Committee with feedback. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathan Eide-Chairperson
Minnesota Association of County Land Commissioners
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