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January 17, 2023

Chair Erin Murphy and Committee Members of the
Senate Committee on State and Local Government and Veterans

Re: Letter of Support for SF 33 Attorney General Appropriations

Dear Committee Chair Murphy and Members of the Committee:

The Attorney General's (AG's) appropriations request, SF 33, is being heard in your committee today, January 17th. In my capacity as Winona County Attorney, Chair of the Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and a member of the MCAA Executive Council and Board of Directors, I am submitting this letter to express my support for the AG's request as contained in SF 33.

The AG's Office under Attorney General Ellison's leadership has been and continues to be a vital partner to County Attorney Offices across the state. I know this firsthand. My staff and I have worked with AG Ellison and his staff on multiple matters during the past four years. Funding to expand the AG's office to hire seven full-time attorneys and two legal assistants is critical to the effective prosecution of criminal cases across the state, particularly so in Greater Minnesota, where many County Attorney Offices have **only** one, two, or three attorneys.

By supporting SF 33, you will be making a smart investment in public safety and the delivery of justice in the places where it matters most, at the local level, in your home districts.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

Karin L. Sonneman
Winona County Attorney
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cc. Robert Small- MCAA Executive Director
Nancy Haas- Poul--Haas
Attorney General Keith Ellison
John Keller- AG's Office Chief of Staff