



American Planning Association  
**Minnesota Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

March 14, 2023

TO: Senator Murphy, Chair, and Committee Members,  
State and Local Gov't and Veterans Committee

RE: APA-MN Comment on SF 73

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a letter on SF 73. APA-MN is the statewide chapter of a national non-profit. APA MN is made up of over 900 planning professionals, educators, local officials, and planning commissioners who are involved in planning-related activities on behalf of state and regional agencies, counties, cities, towns, educational institutions, and the private sector.

While APA-MN takes no position on whether or not the State chooses to legalize cannabis, the chapter does feel it is urgent and important to ensure that cities retain land use controls in this matter, as they would for other similar businesses such as liquor and tobacco. Cities have been entrusted with local control in these matters as a mechanism to plan for the best interests of their communities, and should be allowed to continue that in the matter of cannabis.

APA-MN advocates the bill be modified to include the following:

- A mechanism that ensures a cannabis business has complied with local zoning and land use laws as a condition of their state-issued license;
- The allowance for cities to limit the number of retailers, as they can for liquor and tobacco; and
- Allow cities to set appropriate fees in excess of \$200 to compensate cities for staff time related to confirming zoning compliance and registration fees as to not leave this burden on taxpayers.

In closing, APA MN strongly supports the position of the League of Minnesota Cities and the Municipal Legislative Commission and Metro Cities on SF 73 and need for Minnesota Cities to retain their police powers as it relates to local zoning authority on cannabis.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION, MINNESOTA CHAPTER

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Sue Imihy Bean".

PeggySue Imihy Bean, AICP  
President