

Re: SF 2678

03/20/2023

Dear Transportation Committee Chair Sen. Scott Dibble and Committee Members,

First of all, I want to thank you Chair Sen. Dibble for hearing Senate File 2678. I really appreciate your time and response to my request to have this bill be heard this session.

The reason why I believe a minor change to MN Statute 161.125, subdivision 1, (Greater MN Standalone Noise Barrier Program) is necessary is as follows:

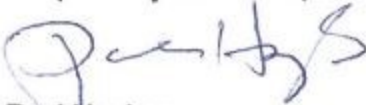
My family and I live on Upper Spunk Lake Road, on the immediate south side of Interstate 94 in Avon Township. The north boundary of our property is approximately 65' from the Interstate 94 south lane road right of way. In November of 2022, a group of us neighbors that live along Upper Spunk Lk Rd asked Avon Township to apply for this program and we were told that since we are not located within an "incorporated area" that we are not eligible for this program. On 02/06/2023, I spoke with Peter Wasko (Unit Chief for Environmental Modeling and Testing at MNDOT). Very nice person, great conversation but he stated that he and his team are not opposed to allowing those in the township areas to apply for the program but his/the DOT legal counsel said that they must comply with the way the statute is currently written. He also said that this statute was really old and he was not sure why it was written to exclude any non-incorporated areas. Of note, upon reviewing the requirements of the Greater MN Standalone Noise Barrier Program, we meet all the requirements except that we are not located within an incorporated area. The Avon Township board is in support of us/them applying for this program and I am confident that we can secure the needed funds to move forward.

With the help from you, Chair Sen. Dibble and Committee members, this small change in the verbiage of this old statute would allow us to move forward with applying for this program.

I very much appreciate your time, consideration and help with this bill.

I also want to thank Sen. Jeff Howe for authoring this bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Hughes

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