

April 29, 2024

Representative Fue Lee, Chair
Capital Investment Committee
485 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Sandra Pappas, Chair
Capital Investment Committee
2113 Senate Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Dean Urdahl, Minority Lead
Capital Investment Committee
279 State Office Building
St. Paul MN 55155

Senator Karin Housley, Ranking Minority Member
Capital Investment Committee
2213 Senate Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Lee, Minority Lead Urdahl, Chair Pappas, Ranking Minority Member Housley, and committee members:

As community leaders and design and construction industry leaders, we are encouraged to hear there are active negotiations towards a robust capital investment bill this session. We have a workforce ready to tackle publicly funded projects today, and into the future. We stand ready to help push a strong public infrastructure bill across the finish line this session.

Capital investment is a key driver of Minnesota's economic future. Completing a robust capital funding bill that includes both design-ready and shovel-worthy projects is essential to sustaining Minnesota's economic health in times of uncertainty. A predictable, reliable cycle of capital budget bills allows the design and construction industry to remain a healthy, stable contributor to Minnesota's economy while addressing chronic inequities in our infrastructure network and creating family sustaining careers.

Despite a strong capital investment bill passed in 2023, we continue to have a significant backlog of maintenance projects, both in the built environment and our infrastructure, which require a regular infusion of bonding and cash investment. The state can continue to leverage significant federal and local dollars to make the state bonding funds even more effective in getting more projects designed and completed.

Capital investments are a long game, not a short one. By bonding and providing funding for public projects from the predesign phase through construction, we create a steady pipeline of work for everyone from architects to the trades, which makes it a lot easier to create the workforce of the future. It's not just about what's shovel-ready today; it's about filling the pipeline with projects for the shovels of 2027 and beyond.

We urge the legislature to pass a capital investment bill to support communities across the state and the design and construction professionals working to build, repair, and preserve essential public infrastructure.

Sincerely,

the Building Jobs Coalition
(members on reverse)

**COALITION CO-CHAIRS**

American Institute of Architects Minnesota
Associated General Contractors of Minnesota
Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council

COALITION MEMBERS

American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota
American Institute of Architects Minnesota
Associated General Contractors of Minnesota
Association of Women Contractors
Builders Association of Minnesota
Hightower Initiatives
IUOE Local 49
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota
Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council
Minnesota Electrical Association
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association
Minnesota Pipe Trades Association
Rethos
Sheet Metal, Air Conditioning & Roofing Contractors Association
The Minnesota Transportation Alliance
Twin Cities Roofing Contractors Association