

April 6, 2024

Dear Chair Klein and Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee Members:

Dear Chair Stephenson and House Commerce Finance & Policy Committee Members:

We as Mayors across Minnesota kindly ask for your support of HF 4461(Hollins)/ SF 4455 (Pappas) to reduce the market demand and reselling of copper wire in our state. The high cost of copper has led to an exponential increase in copper wire theft from private property, as well as streetlights, traffic signal lights, and other public infrastructure. Stolen copper wire is sold to businesses that profit from selling recycled metal.

Wire theft from light structures and other public infrastructure within our communities in our state negatively impact our communities by reducing public safety and compromising the experience people expect while recreating and enjoying time in outdoor spaces.

While our cities and partners continue to work as quickly as possible to replace and repair damaged streetlights, the lack of a long-term, sustainable solution comes at a great cost to our municipalities and residents.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request and ask for your support for this bills passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Koch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kent" and last name "Koch" clearly distinguishable.

Kent Koch

Mayor of Loretto