



April 3, 2024

Re: Senate File 4455 - Copper Wire Theft Legislation

Chair Klein and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today on behalf of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) in support of Senate File 4455. We appreciate Senator Pappas' authorship on this legislation and look forward to the positive impacts this bill will have in communities across Minnesota.

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.

In recent years, the City of Saint Paul has experienced an exponential increase in theft of new and reoccurring copper wire from street light fixtures, traffic signals, utility vaults, heating and air conditioning systems, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure to name some of the most common.

Unfortunately, copper wire theft is not unique to Saint Paul, many Minnesota cities, counties, and utilities report an increase in copper wire theft in public and private infrastructure. The theft is happening across Minnesota in urban, suburban, and rural communities such as Cottage Grove, Kasson, Minneapolis, Oakdale, Plymouth, Ramsey County, Rosemount, Shoreview, St. Louis Park, Stillwater, Washington County, West Saint Paul, and Woodbury.

We appreciate Sen. Pappas' leadership with a statewide approach to help law enforcement with additional tools to help slow the theft of copper from public and private property in our state.

We offer our support for Senate File 4455 and its passage before this committee.

Respectfully,

Jeff Potts
Executive Director
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association