



April 7, 2024

TO: Chair Klein and Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee Members
Chair Stephenson and House Commerce Finance & Policy Committee Members

FROM: Mayors of Minnesota

SUBJECT: Support HF4461 (Hollins) / SF4455 (Pappas) Copper Wire License Requirement

Dear House and Senate Commerce Committee Chairs and Committee Members:

We, as mayors across Minnesota, kindly ask for your support of HF4461 (Hollins) / SF4455 (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 negatively impacts 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 bill's passage.

Sincerely,

Melvin Carter, Mayor, City of Saint Paul
Shelly Jonas, Mayor, City of Annandale
Steve King, Mayor, City of Austin
Margaret Ford, Mayor, City of Birchwood Village
Russell Willson, Mayor, City of Breckenridge
Hollies Winston, Mayor, City of Brooklyn Park
Elizabeth Kautz, Mayor, City of Burnsville
Ryan Sabas, Mayor, City of Champlin



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MINNESOTA**

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Myron Bailey, Mayor, City of Cottage Grove
Chad Olson, Mayor, City of Dilworth
Ron Case, Mayor, City of Eden Prairie
Ben Schierer, Mayor, City of Fergus Falls
Scott Lund, Mayor, City of Fridley
Gretchen Artig-Swomley, Mayor, City of Gem Lake
Mary Fasbender, Mayor, City of Hastings
Tom Fischer, Mayor, City of Little Canada
Mike Pfeiffer, Mayor, City of Long Beach
Kent Koch, Mayor, City of Loretto
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Paul Allen, Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach
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Marylee Abrams, Mayor, City of Maplewood
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John Monge, Mayor, City of North St. Paul
Carol Lagergren, Mayor, City of Norwood Young America
Ryland Eichhorst, Mayor, City of Oronoco
William Blonigan, Mayor, City of Robbinsdale
Kim Norton, Mayor, City of Rochester
Ryan Fitzthum, Mayor, City of Sartell
Ted Kozlowski, Mayor, City of Stillwater
Nadia Mohamed, Mayor, City of St. Louis Park
Daniel O'Leary, Mayor, City of Sunfish Lake
Mike Krachmer, Mayor, City of Vadnais Heights
Larry Cuffe Jr., Mayor, City of Virginia
Dave Napier, Mayor, City of West St. Paul