

April 2, 2024

Chairman Senator Matt Klein
2105 Minnesota State Senate Building
95 University Ave W
Saint Paul, MN 55155

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

We are the leaders of the ten implementing agencies that make up the Metropolitan Regional Parks System. We kindly ask for your support of SF 4455 (Pappas) to reduce the market demand and reselling of copper wire.

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.

The Metropolitan Regional Parks System was established by the legislature in 1974 to preserve and protect the last great places for outdoor recreation in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Wire theft from light structures and other public infrastructure within our Metropolitan Regional Parks System is negatively impacting our community by reducing public safety and compromising the experience people expect while recreating or enjoying our shared outdoor spaces.

While we 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 respective agencies and residents.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Andy Rodriguez

Parks and Recreation Director



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA



Alfred Bangoura

Superintendent



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board



Mark McCabe

Director – Parks & Recreation



RAMSEY COUNTY



Jeff Perry

Anoka County Park Director



Ann Kattreh

Parks and Recreation Director

City of Bloomington



Boe Carlson

Superintendent

Three Rivers Park District