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Chair Dziedzic, Lead Anderson, and Members of the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee,

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota (ACEC/MN) represents over 120 engineering firms and 7,000 employees who provide services to all segments of society, including federal, state, and local governments, private industry, and the public. Our member firms range in size from hundreds of employees at a firm to single employee member firms.

Engineers take an oath to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Our members take that responsibility very seriously, which is why we support Senator Hauschild's work on SF4108. This is a bill that aims to ensure that Minnesota's infrastructure is as sound as possible for the benefit of the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

It is no secret that as a state, we have lots of work to do to improve the status of our infrastructure. The 2022 ASCE Report Card for Minnesota's Infrastructure gave the state a "C" rating.

During the 2023 legislative session, Minnesota made historic investments in our state's infrastructure through the largest Capital Investment bill in the state's history, a robust Transportation bill, and providing the state match for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

It is prudent that as state invests historic dollars into Minnesota's infrastructure that the Council Senator Hauschild has proposed is in place to ensure that best practices are adopted to:

- Preserve and extend the longevity of Minnesota's public and privately owned infrastructure; and
- Provide effective and efficient management of infrastructure.

One of the duties assigned to the council is to identify approaches to enhance and expedite infrastructure coordination across disciplines including engineering. As an organization that represents engineers from all parts of the state, we believe that we would make for a good partner on the Council and could ensure that an engineer is included on a Council where potential engineering decisions are made.

We are hopeful that Senator Hauschild will consider adding ACEC/MN to join the Council in the important work of planning and coordinating Minnesota's infrastructure. ACEC/MN looks forward to continuing dialogue with Senator Hauschild on this bill. Thank you for your time this morning.

Jon Curry,

Executive Director of ACEC/MN