



March 8, 2024

Senator Robert Kupec
Representative Jeff Brand

RE: SF 4161/HF 3499—Maximum train length established, and penalties provided.

Dear Senator Kupec and Representative Brand,

The League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) is an association serving 838 of Minnesota's 855 cities through advocacy, education and training, policy development, risk management and other services.

Thank you for authoring SF 4161/HF 3499, a bill that limits the length of trains. Railroads impose far-reaching and long-term impacts on communities. The impact of railroads on communities has become more pronounced in Minnesota as the number and length of trains have increased. At-grade crossings are blocked by both long moving trains and by trains that stop and remain stopped, sometimes for hours at a time. Blocked crossings delay motorists and sometimes prevent passage of emergency vehicles.

The League supports this legislation. Additionally, the League supports requiring railroads to provide timely notice to an impacted municipality when a crossing or crossings will be blocked by a stopped train. Finally, the League supports requiring railroad companies to provide a direct emergency response telephone number for city first responders to call when an at-grade crossing is blocked, and the emergency services need this crossing immediately unblocked to continue their response.

We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Finn", written in a cursive style.

Anne Finn
Intergovernmental Relations Director