

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees**  
*One strong united voice for Minnesota workers*

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Honorable Members of the Senate Taxes Committee,

AFSCME Council 5 strongly supports SF 4750. This bill is about transparency and accountability. It would require the Department of Revenue to disclose, after 3 years, corporate franchise tax returns of businesses making \$250 million or more in total U. S. sales per year. We currently do not fully understand the impact of our tax policy in Minnesota. Our elected officials depend on reliable and accurate information to make thoughtful and effective tax policy that helps our state and citizens thrive. The disclosure required in this bill would provide the information necessary to facilitate such decision making.

AFSCME members provide public services that are critically important to the quality of life for Minnesotans. Funding this work is a collective effort. Unfortunately, large corporations are often able to avoid taxes by taking advantage of loopholes in the tax laws. This shifts a disproportionate share of the tax burden onto the shoulders of workers and families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

We see evidence of the shifting tax burden in the fact that corporate income tax revenues have been declining over the last several decades as a share of total state revenue. Because of this, working people have had to pick up the slack. This shifting tax burden has exacerbated the historic rise in concentrated wealth and the disturbing trend of growing inequality that we see today. It is important to ensure people are treated fairly in the tax system and this bill will provide the information necessary to ensure corporations pay their fair share.

In addition to shifting the tax burden onto working people, corporate tax avoidance also threatens to starve public services and infrastructure of the investments so critical to our quality of life in Minnesota. Working people cannot fully cover the lost revenue from corporate tax avoidance, so this means the funding for public services also takes a hit.

SF 4750 is simply the first step toward achieving the goals of greater tax fairness and better public services and infrastructure. Before we can achieve these goals, we need to clearly see the impact of our current tax system. This bill provides the information necessary to make that happen. Please support SF 4750.

In Solidarity,

*Bart A Andersen*

Bart Andersen  
Interim Executive Director

*Ethan Vogel*

Ethan Vogel  
Legislative Director