



April 8, 2024

To:

Chair Aisha Gomez, House Taxes Committee and Members of the Committee

Chair Ann Rest, Senate Taxes Committee and Members of the Committee

We are a coalition of labor organizations in support of ongoing funding to upgrade Hennepin County's health care facilities and maintain Target Field.

The County is the principal public agency responsible for providing health care to the low- and moderate-income residents. To meet that responsibility, the County owns significant physical facilities across the County that serve the region and the state, including Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC), Northpoint Health and Wellness Center, the Medical Examiner Facility, Red Door Clinic, Mental Health Center, Behavioral and Chemical Health facility at 1800 Chicago, and a system of primary care and retail care clinics across the County.

The County's health care facilities are important to our members and our local economy. The largest of these facilities is the HCMC campus in downtown Minneapolis. Many of the facilities need updating or redevelopment, as some are nearly 100 years old. The County has identified more than \$1.5 billion in upgrades over the next 15 years to reimagine the eight-block main campus, including the funding and planning of a 500-bed in-patient hospital tower to replace existing, aging in-patient facilities campus-wide. These upgrades will reach far beyond the project themselves, employing thousands of construction workers from across the state and spur significant economic development.

The site and design for Target Field presented many unique challenges, including building the facility over Interstate 394, shifting the alignment of an existing freight rail line, and connecting the ballpark to a new commuter rail platform. The women and men of organized labor were up to the task and completed Target Field two months ahead of the original construction schedule.

Since the ballpark opened, skilled labor has continued to deliver major renovations. We are proud to work safely and efficiently to keep Target Field in the top-tier of Major League Ballparks and we are excited about the plan to extend the ballpark lease through 2059 for the next generation of laborers.

Whether it's laborers, carpenters, insulators, operating engineers, plumbers, pipefitters, teamsters, or other skilled craftspeople, this bill will help employ thousands of working Minnesotans with millions of work hours, to support middle class families across Minnesota.

Signed,

Minnesota Building Trades Council

Heat and Frost Insulators Local 34

Laborers District Council of MN and ND

North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters

Operating Engineers Local 49

Minnesota Pipe Trades Association

Teamsters Local 120