

May 7, 2025

Senator Sandra Pappas, Chair
Capital Investment Committee
2113 Senate Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Karin Housley, Ranking Minority Member
Capital Investment Committee
2213 Senate Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Pappas, Ranking Minority Member Housley, and committee members:

As community leaders and design and construction industry leaders, we cannot overstate the importance and need to pass a strong capital investment bill this legislative session. We have a workforce ready to tackle publicly funded projects today, and into the future. We stand ready to help push a strong public infrastructure bill across the finish line in the next couple of weeks.

The [Architecture Billings Index](#) (ABI), a leading economic indicator of construction activity, hit a 10-month low of 44.1, in March. The index provides an approximately 9- to 12-month glimpse into the future of nonresidential construction spending activity. Any score below 50.0 indicates *decreasing* business conditions. Uncertainty with international trade policy is apparent and outside of the State's control, but the MN State Legislature can impart certainty in our communities and industries by investing in our state's infrastructure. Without a state bonding bill, local communities will be forced to put off critical infrastructure investments or increase the property tax burden on businesses and residents.

By bonding and providing funding for public projects from the predesign phase through construction, we create a steady pipeline of work for everyone from architects to the trades, which makes it a lot easier to create the workforce of the future. It's not just about what's shovel-ready today; it's about filling the pipeline with projects for the shovels of 2027 and beyond.

Capital investment is a key driver of Minnesota's economic future. Completing a robust capital funding bill that includes both design-ready and shovel-worthy projects is essential to sustaining Minnesota's economic health in times of uncertainty. A predictable, reliable cycle of capital budget bills allows the design and construction industry to remain a healthy, stable contributor to Minnesota's economy while addressing chronic inequities in our infrastructure network and creating family sustaining careers.

We urge the legislature to pass a robust capital investment bill to support communities across the state and the design and construction professionals working to build, repair, and preserve essential public infrastructure.

Sincerely,
The Building Jobs Coalition

Chairs: Mary-Margaret Zindren, American Institute of Architects Minnesota
Tom Dicklich, Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council
Tim Worke, Associated General Contractors of Minnesota