



February 27, 2025

Chair Klein and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Retailers and the 1,200 storefronts we represent across the state, we urge your **support for SF 826, which seeks to exempt artist paints from the 2023 Minnesota ban on products containing lead and cadmium.** While the intent of the original legislation—to protect public health from the harmful effects of these substances—is commendable, its broad application has inadvertently impacted the art community by restricting essential materials.

Cadmium-based pigments have been integral to artistic expression with even the European Chemicals Agency, in 2013, recognizing that the contribution of cadmium from artist paints to environmental contamination is negligible compared to other sources. Moreover, these pigments are formulated to be insoluble, minimizing potential health risks during typical use. The current ban has affected art supply retailers in Minnesota, limiting their ability to provide essential materials to artists and students. **This restriction not only hampers artistic endeavors but also places local businesses at a competitive disadvantage and pushes some artists to purchase out-of-state.**

In addition to supporting the exemption for artist paints, **we advocate for similar considerations regarding keys.** Currently, there are no current commercially feasible lead-free alternatives for household keys and key fobs. Because of this, retailers across the state have essentially had their entire stock of keys banned. That includes products that contain an integrated lock, padlocks, or household keys. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has acknowledged that transitioning to alternatives will require time. We urge you to consider removing keys from the lead and cadmium prohibitions

By passing SF 826 and considering exemptions for keys, Minnesota can continue to protect public health while addressing the practical needs of consumers and alleviate the issues created for retailers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Nustad", with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Bruce Nustad
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