



Chair Klein and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a brief statement today. Please note that the statement we provided prior to this hearing was submitted before our discussion with Senator Rarick.

The Minnesota Association of Cemeteries was very pleased to meet with Senator Rarick yesterday. We appreciate his time and thoughtful engagement with our concerns. He addressed many of the issues we raised, particularly those related to potential consumer confusion and the possible short- and long-term negative implications of the bill. For that, we are grateful.

Senator Rarick has agreed to adjust the three primary areas of concern we raised, and we thank him sincerely for taking the time to meet with us and for his willingness to work with our association.

Our association's primary objectives in these discussions were:

1. To ensure that families with existing grave spaces within a cemetery that do not meet the proposed grave dimensions can still access green burial in cemeteries that allow for it, by removing the proposed grave dimension requirement for green burials.
2. To eliminate confusion in the law by changing the terminology from "Ash Spreading" to "Spreading of Cremated Remains."
3. To understand the reasoning or research behind a proposed increase to 25% for the Permanent Care and Improvement Fund, and to maintain the current 20% requirement if no supporting studies or justification are available.

We are actively gathering feedback from our members across the state and have not yet had sufficient time to collect the full range of their perspectives. While Senator Rarick has clarified much of the bill's intent, some members continue to express concerns—particularly regarding the clarity of the language related to the scattering of cremated remains within a cemetery. Additionally, there are concerns that the proposed density limits for green burials per acre could place unintended restrictions on already planned green burial sections.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this discussion. The Minnesota Association of Cemeteries is committed to continued collaboration on Senate File 2819.

Sincerely,

Dominic Pierre

Secretary-Treasurer

Minnesota Association of Cemeteries