



April 3, 2025

Chair Hawj and Members of the Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter in support of SF570. The American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota (ACEC/MN) advocates for consulting engineering firms. With over 125 member companies and 7,500 employees, ACEC/MN serves federal, state, local governments, private industry, and the public. Streamlining the state's permitting process is a top priority for our member firms across the state.

Our members are eager to contribute more to Minnesota's growth and development. However, the current administratively unpredictable permitting process has presented some challenges, leading to delays and increased costs for important public and private projects. We believe that with the right adjustments, Minnesota can become an even more attractive place for business investment. Our members have noticed that neighboring states have more streamlined processes, and we see an opportunity for Minnesota to improve in this area. By supporting this legislation, we aim to create a more predictable and efficient permitting environment, which will benefit everyone involved.

We appreciate the bipartisan, thoughtful, and responsible approach which was taken in crafting SF570. This legislation's tech-neutral approach to permitting reform is about making our processes more efficient and predictable while maintaining our high environmental benchmarks. We all benefit when we have clear, consistent, and timely permitting processes. This approach ensures that any project, regardless of its nature, has a fair and efficient path forward toward completion.

Engineering firms across the state are asking for reform to our state's permitting processes. SF570 offers a path toward more projects being completed in a time-effective, cost-conscious manner that still centers environmental protection. Engineers take an oath to use their training to safeguard public health, safety, and welfare. This legislation ensures that Minnesota's permitting process aligns with that oath. ACEC/MN's member firms look forward to engaging with the legislature to build a permitting system that strengthens Minnesota's economy while preserving the state's natural resources we all enjoy.

Signed,

Jon Curry,

Executive Director of ACEC/MN