

April 21, 2025

Senator John Marty, Chair
Finance Committee

Subject: S.F. 3045 Omnibus State Government Budget Bill

Dear Chair Marty,

I recognize the challenge before Senator Xiong of crafting a state government finance bill given the recent economic forecast, as well as the broader economic uncertainty. In recognition of those challenges, I appreciate that the sections of the omnibus bill pertaining to the Department of Administration (Admin) align with Governor Walz's overall recommendations.

Appropriations

In particular, I would like to thank Senator Xiong for recognizing the importance of adequately funding the very modest operating adjustment for Admin. This appropriation will cover basic and growing expenses for health care, compensation, utilities, and information technology. Demand for the agency's general fund services has grown over time and, without an operating adjustment, service delivery will be impacted.

The bill also funds an increase to the In Lieu of Rent account, which includes maintenance and operation of the Capitol and grounds, legislative facilities, and space for veterans' service organizations. The facilities covered by this account are essential to government operations and the public's ability to access and participate in the governing process.

Additionally, the extension of the Capitol Mall Design Framework funding will allow for completion of the first phase currently underway on the Capitol Complex.

Policy

The bill makes needed updates to Admin's statutes with the inclusion of Admin's Contracting (SF2501), Grants (SF2578), and Technical (SF2417) policy bills. These changes will help Admin to best serve our partners and keep our statutes up to date.

Additionally, thank you to Senator Xiong for including language to establish the no-cost State Facility Renewable Energy, Storage, and Electric Vehicle account. This change will enable Admin to help state agencies leverage federal cash rebates for eligible renewal energy projects and electric vehicle purchases to fund future eligible projects. Installing renewable energy upgrades will help agencies avoid operating costs.

As the Senate works through the budget bill and conference committee process, I encourage you to consider the inclusion of the enterprise data sharing bill (SF2574). This would break down silos and remove barriers for agencies to share limited data to coordinate actions related to investigating potential fraud.

I look forward to working with you and Senator Xiong through the conference committee process. Thank you for your ongoing partnership.

Sincerely,

Tamar Gronvall
Commissioner