



# Association of Minnesota Counties

January 29, 2025

Chairs Xiong, Lang and Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), a voluntary association representing all of Minnesota's 87 counties, we appreciate the opportunity to share our comments on SF59, a bill that would modify procedures for a county to alter preexisting boundary lines.

A vast majority of county roads are related to and described using the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) in Minnesota and our members are concerned about the deterioration of the PLSS. Over time, PLSS monuments have been lost, damaged, or misplaced. The PLSS is the basis for all real property descriptions and a foundational infrastructure that impacts both rural and urban areas, businesses and governmental agencies, property owners and tenants.

For the past several years, we have shared our support for the re-monumentation and mapping of the Public Land Survey System as proposed by the Minnesota Society of Professional Land Surveyors and Minnesota Association of County Surveyors. We appreciate the committee's work to prioritize this important project but have concerns with some of the language in the bill as introduced. The timeline for a county to complete assessment of all monuments and to preserve and restore those that are destroyed or obscured by 2028 is unrealistic. The funding necessary to complete the re-monumentation process is significant, and even if full funding was achieved, the project would take many years to complete. Counties are also concerned with the language that would require each county to employ a land surveyor as both limited funding *and* staff resources are part of the reason this project will take several years to finish. With the shortage of licensed surveyors in the state, counties would face significant challenges in filling these positions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SF59. AMC looks forward to continued conversations with Senator Green and members of the committee on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Emily Murray  
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*Association of Minnesota Counties*