

Minnesota Association of Townships

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The Honorable Scott Dibble
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
3107 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF285

Dear Mr. Chair:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT), I wish to convey support for Sen. Jasinski's Senate File 285.

As you know, MAT represents nearly all of Minnesota's 1,776 townships. That amounts to approximately 9,000 township officers, representing over 916,000 residents of the State of Minnesota. Townships are responsible for maintaining approximately 40% of Minnesota's road miles.

In regard to SF285, township roads do not normally intersect with trunk highways as often as other units of government. But it is certainly not unheard of.

MAT's members have had at least one serious issue with MNDOT and cost participation of a trunk highway in the past. However, MNDOT has been receptive to MAT's feedback and has invited the association into its cost participation policy work group.

Nevertheless, MAT remains concerned over the longer term about the uncertainties inherent in handling these sorts of issues through policy rather than statute; from changing administrations, to the potential for costly litigation, to the simple chilling effect of uncertainty in this area. For this reason, MAT would urge the committee to move forward with efforts to codify a fair process in statute via SF285.

Thank you Mr. Chair for hearing SF285 and MAT stands ready to provide any additional information on this and other transportation matters.

Graham Berg-Moberg
In-House Counsel
Minnesota Association of Townships

Cc: Sen. John Jasinski