

Jason Gillet  
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Certified Pool Operator (CPO) Instructor  
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RE: SF 2669 Support

Madam chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Jason Gillet and I am the VP of Strategic Partnerships and Industry Advocacy at Horizon Commercial Pools in Arden Hills, MN. I am also an Instructor of the Certified Pool Operator program on behalf of the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance, a standard setting and educational organization in the commercial pool industry.

I am speaking today in favor of the proposal to raise the fees on pool operators in Minnesota included in SF 2669. This fee is important to our industry and stakeholders because the Minnesota Department of Health requires additional funding to keep the current level of service in the Food, Pools and Lodging section. It may seem unusual for someone to come before you asking to pay increased fees, but we understand that these fees are directly related to the time it takes MDH to review our plans, perform inspections, and provide timely response. At present, it is taking 2.5 to 3 months to receive either comments or approval for submitted pool plans, which far exceeds the standard of a 30-day review period.

While we recognize and appreciate the hard work and dedication of the plan review staff, it is clear that the current system is overwhelmed by a growing backlog of plans. Coupled with the increased scrutiny of plans and the expanded scope of what now requires plans and review, this backlog is sure to get much worse than it already is.

We understand that the plan review team is working tirelessly to address this backlog, but the current situation is simply unsustainable and detrimental to the swimming pool industry and its stakeholders. The delays in receiving approval or feedback on pool plans are not only impacting the timeliness of construction projects but also adding unnecessary costs and complications for pool operators, designers, and contractors. More critically, these delays can create serious safety concerns for Minnesota's swimmers and residents. Delayed plan review can lead to pools that may not meet current safety standards, leaving swimmers at risk.

This is why, on behalf of the MN pool industry, we support SF 2669 and the fee increases as proposed. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jason Gillet

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