



# Association of Minnesota Counties

February 12, 2025

Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety 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 PLSS as proposed by the Minnesota Society of Professional Land Surveyors and Minnesota Association of County Surveyors. We appreciate Senator Green bringing to light the importance of this statewide project but have concerns with some of the language in the bill as introduced.

**First, 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.

Finally, and of the most concern to the members of this committee, counties are concerned with the new remedy for judicially determining boundary lines under a new subdivision of 508.671 (Sub. 4.). Section 508 of Minnesota Statutes applies to Registered Lands in Minnesota. The vast majority of lands in Minnesota are not registered but are abstract. If this new remedy is enacted, it may require the registration of significant lands in the state. **This will create an undue burden on both the local landowners and the counties in the form of court cases, legal fees, and surveying fees.**

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