



April 10, 2025

Chair McEwen, and Honorable Members of the State Senate Labor Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council to express our strong support for SF2373, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) budget bill currently under consideration. Adequate funding for DLI is crucial for ensuring the efficient operation of inspections, permitting, and plan reviews, which are essential for advancing construction projects across our state.

Timely and thorough inspections, efficient permit pulling processes, and rigorous plan reviews form the bedrock of a predictable and conducive environment for both workers and businesses in the construction sector. These activities not only uphold safety standards but also facilitate the smooth progression of projects, contributing to economic growth and job creation in Minnesota.

A key part of this bill is ensuring the financial stability of DLI's Construction Codes and Licensing Division (CCLD), which plays a critical role in keeping projects moving safely and efficiently. The reality is that essential units have been operating at a deficit for years. If left unaddressed, this funding shortfall threatens to slow down the services that our industry depends on to maintain momentum on job sites. The proposed fee adjustments are necessary to align these programs with the costs of providing services. Importantly, these fees have remained unchanged since 2007, despite inflation and rising operational costs. Ensuring stable funding for CCLD will allow for timely inspections and reviews, reducing bottlenecks and uncertainty for both workers and contractors, while maintaining high safety and quality standards.

By maintaining stable funding levels for DLI, we can ensure that projects proceed without unnecessary delays, providing certainty to workers, contractors, and developers alike. This predictability fosters investment and innovation within our industry, supporting a robust economic environment that benefits all Minnesotans.

Supporting the DLI budget bill is a prudent investment in Minnesota's future prosperity. By prioritizing full and stable funding for inspections, permitting, and plan reviews, we can ensure that our state remains a desirable place to live, work, and do business. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Dicklich
Executive Director
Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council