

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Fue Lee, Chair
House Capital Investment Committee
485 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Lee,

I am writing today in support of the Department of Administration (Admin)-related provisions recommended by Governor Walz that you included in the House Capital Investment Omnibus Bonding Bill, HF337. Funding these items will allow Admin to respond to emergency repairs in state buildings, provide relief to the state parking fund, offer resources to state agencies to be more energy resilient, and execute the recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security.

This bill makes significant investments necessary to address the large backlog of critical asset preservation needs across the enterprise. In addition, unexpected system failures or natural disasters can still happen, and the funding included in this legislation for Capital Asset Preservation and Replacement Account (CAPRA) will ensure that Admin can respond to those emergencies.

Temporarily suspending the transfer from the state parking fund to the general fund will help address the revenue shortfall in the parking fund, which is managed by the Department of Administration. This shortfall is the result of significant parking contract cancellations and decreased use of state meters as a result of the pandemic.

In addition to Governor Walz's recommendations, Admin appreciates the inclusion of funding to install solar energy generation systems on state buildings. These upgrades will reduce energy costs for state agencies, allow them to be more resilient to electrical grid outages, and assist the state in achieving its sustainability goals. We will continue to work with the committee to ensure that final provisions are the most effective possible to achieve our shared goals.

Finally, this legislation makes the urgent security upgrades recommended by the Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security. The recommended improvements are the continuation of security upgrades currently underway across portions of the Capitol Complex and will mitigate significant vulnerabilities in and around facilities on the Capitol Complex. The funding will also implement enhancements as necessary to counter new threats that have evolved since the study was completed in 2014.

Thank you for your consideration of Admin's capital budget requests and I look forward to working with you throughout the bill process.

Sincerely,



Alice Roberts-Davis
Commissioner