



April 21, 2023

95 University Avenue
MN Senate Building, Room 3211
St. Paul, MN 5155

Dear Chair Murphy:

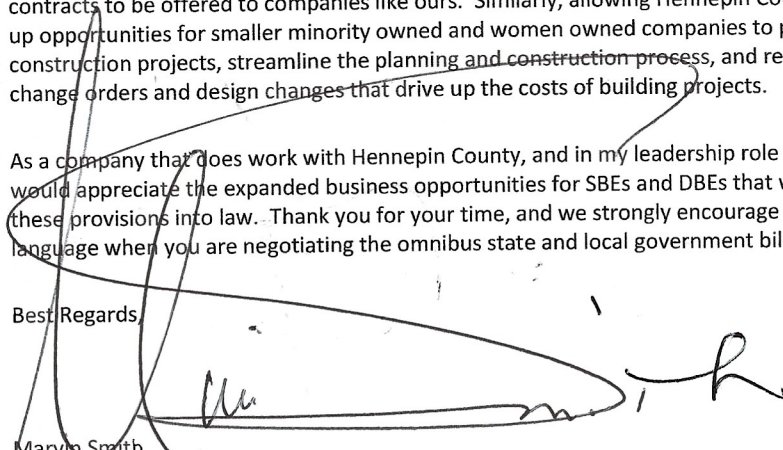
As president of the National Association of Minority Contractors – Upper Midwest (NAMC-UM) and owner of a minority owned company, Bogar Construction, I ask you to accept language found in the House omnibus state and local government policy bill (HF 1826) with respect to Hennepin County's contracting and procurement practices during conference committee negotiations on this bill. These provisions were originally in legislation introduced by Senator Cwodzinski (SF 1716) and Representative Mike Nelson (HF 1784).

Hennepin County has taken great strides to increase the amount of business it does with small, locally owned businesses, particularly women owned, minority owned, and veteran owned companies. The provisions of SF 1716 will improve upon those efforts by doing two things: first, it increases the maximum dollar amount for projects that can use the small business enterprise (SBE) certification bidding process from \$250,000 to \$500,000; and second, it authorizes Hennepin County to use a construction manager at risk (CMR) method of project delivery and award construction manager at risk contracts. It also allows the County to prioritize SBEs and disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) when using CMR.

Increasing the bid threshold from \$250,000 to \$500,000 when using the small business certification process is necessary to keep pace with inflationary costs and will allow more construction and service contracts to be offered to companies like ours. Similarly, allowing Hennepin County to use CMR will open up opportunities for smaller minority owned and women owned companies to participate in larger construction projects, streamline the planning and construction process, and reduce the possibility of change orders and design changes that drive up the costs of building projects.

As a company that does work with Hennepin County, and in my leadership role with the NAMC-UM, I would appreciate the expanded business opportunities for SBEs and DBEs that would result from enacting these provisions into law. Thank you for your time, and we strongly encourage you to accept this language when you are negotiating the omnibus state and local government bill in conference committee.

Best Regards,



Marvin Smith
President Bogar Construction / President NAMC