



February 22, 2021

Representative Jamie Becker-Finn
559 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: League of Minnesota Cities support for H.F. 978 (Becker-Finn) - Fire protection special taxing district creation authorized, and property tax levies and bond issuance authorized

Dear Representative Becker-Finn,

On behalf of the 835 members of the League of Minnesota Cities, I am writing to indicate our support for H.F. 978, your bill that would create a framework for local governments across the state to jointly provide fire protection or emergency medical service through the establishment of fire protection special taxing districts. The League and its members support this authority as an option to assure Minnesotans have access to these important public safety services.

Under the bill, two or more political subdivisions are permitted to establish, by resolution of their governing bodies, a special taxing district to provide fire protection or emergency medical services, or both.

With changing demographics, the need for more specialization and challenges of attracting and retaining sufficient staff to protect our citizens, the League of Minnesota Cities recognizes that some regions of the state could sustain or improve public safety protection services if public safety protection districts were authorized. The League supports authority for local units of government to establish public safety protection districts provided that 1) participation in a district is a local decision, and 2) public safety taxing districts must be governed by elected officials representing the participating entities.

Elected local official participation is the governance and oversight of these districts will assure that taxpayer funds will be used efficiently and effectively. Public Safety protection districts have the potential to improve uniformity of public safety service delivery and reduce duplication of equipment purchases and services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gary N. Carlson'.

Gary Carlson
Intergovernmental Relations Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anne Finn'.

Anne Finn
Assistant Intergovernmental Relations Director