



Chair Lee and members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of AIA Minnesota's 2,300 architecture and design professional members, we would like to express our support for HF 337, which funds vital bonding projects around the state. We, along with our partners in the construction industry, have long advocated for regular and robust bonding bills that support projects in all phases of development, from planning and pre-design to those ready to begin construction.

While we know that the legislature typically focuses on bonding in non-budget years, bills like this one can help address the significant backlog of deferred maintenance that is reducing the value of our built environment and causing projects to be more expensive to complete. Off-year bills also allow for the funding of urgent projects that will improve community health, safety, and welfare in a timely manner. And passing a bonding bill at this particular moment in time will have the added benefit of assisting the design and construction industries in our recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, AIA Minnesota wishes to highlight our support of two particular provisions in this bill. The first is the updates to SB 2030 in Article 4, section 3 that establish resiliency guidelines and include both operating and construction costs when calculating lifetime costs. Minnesota's architecture and design professionals are constantly developing innovative ways to adapt to our changing climate, from building envelope specifications and careful site planning, to mechanical systems and energy generation opportunities being incorporated into regenerative design.

We have heard from the University of Minnesota's Center for Sustainable Building Research, which administers the SB 2030 program, that compliance with SB 2030 is currently saving taxpayers \$22 million each year in building operating costs. Directly acknowledging the significant impact that energy efficient, sustainable, resilient, and regenerative design can have on operating costs is an important step—it helps encourage all developers, in both the public and private sectors, to factor those savings into account more heavily, rather than relying only on assessment of first costs to determine what regenerative design will be cost-effective for their project.

Secondly, we applaud the inclusion of appropriation bonds for recovery efforts in areas impacted by unrest following the killing of Mr. George Floyd last year. AIA Minnesota and members of our architecture community – as professionals who are entrusted with protecting the health, safety and welfare of the people of Minnesota through the buildings and structures we design – have been working to support individual businesses, business organizations, and neighborhood groups in the impacted areas since the unrest. We have had the privilege of hearing their concerns, their goals, and most importantly, their visions for their neighborhoods. We have joined them in advocating for strong community ownership of the vision, processes,

built structures, and economic benefit of what happens next in these areas, in a way that recognizes past harms while also creating the conditions for a bright future.

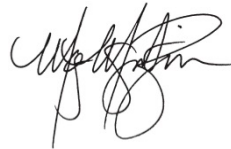
Support from these bonds will provide resources that go beyond the needs covered by insurance, as many of the businesses and groups we have worked with want to build a better community than what was in place before. This funding is critical to preventing a repetition of the limited, promise-filled and often unrealized planning processes that have created distrust and frustration in neighborhoods and cities throughout Minnesota.

We have been incredibly pleased to see the effort put into making Minnesota's capital investments more accessible, equitable, resilient, and robust during the 2021 session, and applaud the committee for all of its work this year. AIA Minnesota respectfully asks you to support HF 337 and stands ready to work with you to pass a bonding bill this year. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Anna Pravinata, AIA, NOMA  
AIA Minnesota President



Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE  
Executive Vice President, AIA Minnesota