



To: Representative John Lesch
563 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

From: Minnesota County Attorneys Association (MCAA)
Minnesota Peace and Police Officers Association (MPPOA)
Minnesota Sheriffs Association (MSA)

Subj: HF 4571

Date: April 22, 2020

On behalf of the members of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association (MCAA), the Minnesota Peace and Police Officers Association (MPPOA), and the Minnesota Sheriffs Association (MSA), we write in unison in support of the meaningful changes to the forfeiture laws as contained in HF 4571.

Our collective Associations represent more than 10,000 law enforcement officers and prosecutors. We are long committed to administering forfeiture laws in a fair and fiscally responsible manner while maximizing its ability to deter criminal activity. This legislation strikes the right balance. It ensures the protection of people's rights which are built on existing due process protections for criminal defendants, innocent owners and bona fide lienholders while also ensuring that the ability of drug dealers to traffic, sell and profit from drug dealing does not become easier and that the behavior of repeat drunk drivers is deterred. It also increases transparency with respect to forfeiture revenues and distributions to ensure that the forfeiture proceeds are administered professionally and in a manner consistent with sound public policy.

We understood the legislative interest in making progress on improving our forfeiture laws last session and we took leadership during the interim to participate in a never before tried, self-imposed, mediation style negotiation. This months long process yielded the legislation before you. While it is not perfect, and certain provisions cause some of our members concerns, that is a reflection of a true compromise. We stand by this compromise legislation and appreciate all who worked to achieve this result.

Thank you for your efforts on this important public safety issue. We look forward to working with you this session to ensure this legislation becomes law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Peters", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Peters
Executive Director Minnesota Police & Peace Officers Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Hutton", written in a cursive style.

William M. Hutton
Executive Director Minnesota Sheriffs' Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Small", written in a cursive style.

Robert Small
Executive Director Minnesota County Attorneys Association