

May 7, 2022

To: Conference Committee  
HF 4293 – Omnibus state government finance bill  
Re: Excavation notice reporting

Dear Conferees:

House language on Page R61, lines 208.18 through 208.30 of the HF 4293 side-by-side calls for quarterly reporting by underground utility facility operators to the Office of Pipeline Safety of information pulled from data they are already reporting to Gopher State Once Call (GSOC).

It is not clear what safety, reliability or efficiency problem would be solved by enacting these additional reporting requirements. Operators are not aware of any patterns or trends, other than the increasing volume of locate tickets submitted to the GSOC system, which point to any systemic problem with GSOC. The current enforcement model, in which MNOPS investigates complaints and crafts unique regulatory remedies for companies that have not complied with the statute, is working well. More data for MNOPS would not make the system safer, and in fact, the time and cost of collecting additional information could be counterproductive to improving safety. MNOPS's own data establishes that excavator damage to facilities is on the rise and poses the greatest danger to public safety.

MMUA respectfully requests that the final conference committee report not include the language imposing this burdensome and unnecessary requirement.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Kent Sulem  
Director of Government Relations and Senior Counsel