



April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**RE: Support for HF2099**

Dear House Public Safety Finance & Policy Committee Members,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we have come together in support of HF2099 to bring state support to our state's emergency managers. Local emergency management roles and critical duties of which are mandated by the state of Minnesota are in jeopardy due to a lack of support. We urge your support of HF2099 to ensure the stability of these positions that protects the lives and livelihoods of Minnesotans.

Minnesota's local emergency managers are on the frontlines when disasters strike. Emergency managers are pivotal in safeguarding communities, serving as the architects of disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts.

With dwindling federal funding, many counties face the difficult decision of reducing or eliminating these roles, further jeopardizing their ability to respond to emergencies. This creates a dangerous scenario where communities may be left without the expertise needed to manage evacuations, establish emergency shelters, and distribute essential resources. Current funding levels have not kept pace with the growing complexity and frequency of disasters that range from weather-related to cybersecurity threats, placing our communities in danger.

We strongly urge policymakers to support dedicated, sustainable funding for local emergency management that address critical priorities. This funding is essential to ensuring that local emergency managers have the resources necessary to develop, implement, and maintain comprehensive emergency plans; conduct training and exercises; and coordinate response and recovery efforts during disasters.

We stand united in urging you to prioritize emergency management funding this legislative session. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you to advance this crucial investment and ensure Minnesota communities remain safe, secure, and well-supported.

