



DATE: April 1, 2025

TO: House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee Co-Chairs Rep. Jon Koznick and Rep. Erin Koegel

RE: Opposition of House File 2798 (Fogelman): Escort Vehicle Requirements for over dimensional loads modified.

Dear Representatives:

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association, and Law Enforcement Labor Services are collectively writing to strongly oppose House File 2798 (Fogelman): Escort vehicle requirements for over dimensional loads modified. Our organization oppose House File 2798 for a simple reason: public safety. This bill seeks to remove licensed peace officers from assisting in important traffic safety operations.

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (**MPPOA**) is the largest trade association representing public safety professionals in the State of Minnesota. The Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association (**MSPTA**) represents rank-and-file State Troopers as their members and is the largest union federation in the state for public safety. Law Enforcement Labor Services (**LELS**) is Minnesota's largest public safety labor union of 7,500+ members specializing in the representation of law enforcement, fire, dispatch, corrections, and public safety support staff throughout the state. LELS represents the Supervisors (Lieutenants and Captains) of the MN State Patrol as their members.

State Patrol escorts for heavy and oversized equipment loads on highways are crucial for public safety, preventing damage to infrastructure, and ensuring the smooth and efficient movement of these loads.

Public Safety: Oversized loads pose significant hazards to other vehicles and road users due to their size and potential for unpredictable movements. State Patrol escorts help to:

- Guide and control the movement of oversized loads
- Alert other drivers
- Maintain traffic flow

Infrastructure Protection: Oversized loads can potentially damage roads, bridges, and other infrastructure if not handled properly. State Patrol escorts help to:

- Monitor the load's path
- Coordinate with local authorities
- Verify the load's dimensions

Efficiency and Logistics: Oversized loads require special permits and routes, and State Patrol escorts help to:

- Facilitate the movement of goods
- Provide a legal framework for oversized loads

Pilot Car vs. Police Escort: Police escorts provide the needed statutory authority and expertise needed to ensure safety and compliance with regulations, especially in complex or hazardous situations.

Below are several pictures of the vehicles that impede traffic that currently require State Patrol to assist with traffic safety, which this bill would seek to remove, including windmill blades, parts of manufacturing facilities, and oil refinery plants.



The current law satisfies both the balance of public safety and needs for commerce.

We urge your consideration of this important public safety bill for our profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Peters".

Brian Peters
Executive Director, Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association

Mike LeDoux
President, Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association

Jim Mortenson
Executive Director, Law Enforcement Labor Services

