



Chairman Baker and members of the House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of H.F. 8.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. The current permitting process creates significant barriers for those seeking to obtain environmental permits in Minnesota. Burdensome regulations impact a business's decision to establish themselves or continue operating in our state. Allowing the current regulatory environment to persist harms the States ability to attract and retain key industries such as agriculture, biofuels, manufacturing, and processing. Reforming the current system will allow for greater economic development and expansion.

Notable changes made in this legislation include:

- Limiting wetland extensions to 60 days
- Requiring more extensive, comprehensive environmental permitting reports from agencies
- Creates separation between construction and operating permits
- Establishes a new administrative position tasked with reviewing and providing recommendations on how to streamline the permitting process in Minnesota

These changes will establish a more transparent and efficient permitting process in Minnesoat – offering critical industries to grow and flourish. For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to support H.F. 8.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce