

The logo for ACEC Minnesota features the text "ACEC Minnesota" in a serif font. Above the text is a stylized orange and yellow arc that resembles a rising sun or a bridge.

February 25, 2025

House Workforce, Labor, Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee
Capitol G3
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development
Finance and Policy,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter in support of HF8/SF577/SF570. The American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota (ACEC/MN) advocates for consulting engineering firms. With over 125 member companies and 7,500 employees, ACEC/MN serves federal, state, local governments, private industry, and the public. Streamlining the state's permitting process is a top priority for our member firms across the state.

Our members are eager to contribute more to Minnesota's growth and development. However, the current administratively unpredictable permitting process has presented some challenges, leading to delays and increased costs for important projects. We believe that with the right adjustments, Minnesota can become an even more attractive place for business investment. Our members have noticed that neighboring states have more streamlined processes, and we see an opportunity for Minnesota to improve in this area. By supporting this legislation, we aim to create a more predictable and efficient permitting environment, which will benefit everyone involved.

We appreciate the bipartisan, thoughtful, and responsible approach which was taken in crafting HF8/SF577/SF570. This legislation's approach to permitting reform is about making our processes more efficient and predictable while maintaining our high environmental benchmarks. We all benefit when we have clear, consistent, and timely permitting processes. This approach ensures that any project, regardless of its nature, has a fair and efficient path forward toward permit review and decision.

Engineering firms across the state are asking for reform of our state's permitting processes. HF8/SF577/SF570 offers a path toward more projects being reviewed in a time-effective, cost-conscious manner that still centers on environmental protection. Engineers take an oath to use their training and experience to safeguard public health, safety, and welfare. This legislation ensures that Minnesota's permitting process aligns with that oath. ACEC/MN's member firms look forward to engaging with the legislature to build a permitting system that strengthens Minnesota's economy while preserving the state's natural resources we all enjoy.

Signed,

Jon Curry,

Executive Director of ACEC/MN