



Minnesota Utility Contractors Association

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The Minnesota Utility Contractors Association (MUCA) is an association that represents over 140 companies and thousands of workers across Minnesota in the underground utility construction industry ranging from underground contractors to suppliers. MUCA provides services to members such as safety training, governmental relations, communications, industry updates, etc.

2019 Legislative Priorities

1. Support Infrastructure Investment

Transportation – No Gas Tax Increase

- A 70% gas tax increase adversely affects the cost of living for all Minnesotans.
- Continual surpluses (\$1.5 billion, the latest) and a record-high reserve, demonstrate priorities for spending are not on roads and bridges.
- Establish permanent, long-term efficiency expectations from MnDOT

Water Infrastructure – Support HF 411 and SF 587

- Fully fund the Public Facilities Authority priorities to ensure utilization of the federal matching funds for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds through the EPA.

2. Employer/Employee Mandates – Oppose HF 5, HF6, HF 10, and HF 11

- Worker shortage is already at a crisis level in the construction industry. New mandates will hurt both employers and employees.
- Missing 24 weeks of work equals almost the entirety of a construction season!
- Construction companies can't find workers, much less temporary workers to fill-in.
- Most of MUCA's contractors are small businesses; they can't afford these "one-size-fits all" mandates, and should be free to operate their business and determine their own wage and benefits packages.
- Removing the longstanding 'severe and pervasive' standard will leave companies and courts with no precedence in determining claims.

3. Support Tax Competitiveness – Oppose Governor Walz's Tax Increases

- Six consecutive forecasts with budget surpluses, plus budget reserves at a record high level demonstrate Minnesota does not have a revenue problem.
- Minnesota's corporate tax rate is 3rd highest; Individual income tax is 4th highest.
- Offset federal tax conformity with pro-growth reforms.

4. Support SF 947 Modifying Retainage in Construction

- Prohibit withholding retainage for warranties or warranty work.
- Retainage must be released within 30 days of the completed improvement date.

5. Support Hours of Service Exemption for Utility Contractors

- **HF 1423 and SF 1614** Utility contractors need this exemption to increase project efficiency and reduce congestion during construction in cities across Minnesota.