



Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums *Peers Helping Peers Since 1991*

March 22, 2017

Honorable Representative Rob Ecklund
311 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Ecklund,

The Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM) has represented and supported the work of the more than 500 local history organizations within Minnesota since 1991. Recent legislation has been introduced that has come to our attention, as well as many of our members, that could have potential impact on preservation work in Minnesota. On March 13, Senate File 2077 and House File 2366 were introduced as companion bills which would remove the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) from the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) and place it under the Department of Administration. These bills garnered the attention of many in the local history community as we work closely with SHPO on a wide variety of topics.

MALHM is requesting information, from the Governor's office and the chief authors of the legislation, regarding the decision making process that went into proposing this legislation. What research or information led to this legislation? This legislation has larger effects than simply moving an office from one place to another. Effects including the entanglement of funding sources that allows the office to operate, paper records on historic properties available in a reading library within the SHPO office, and the coordination of efforts between other units housed under the umbrella of the Heritage Preservation Department. Providing information regarding the legislation's impetus will provide context as to the timing of its introduction.

This legislation, as currently presented, will have a tremendous impact on our constituents as well as heritage preservation commissions throughout Minnesota. We rely on the professional advice of SHPO and their colleagues in Field Services and Grants to work as one unit with us to preserve our state's history. Each of these units are housed within the Heritage Preservation Department, which is local history's main link to the Minnesota Historical Society. By coordinating the activities of all three units under the same department, the local history community has enjoyed many decades of cooperation and a positive working relationship. If the function of SHPO would be removed from this office, these efforts would be made less efficient and the main consumer of services provided by the Heritage Preservation Department would suffer as a result.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly by these methods:

Postal Mail

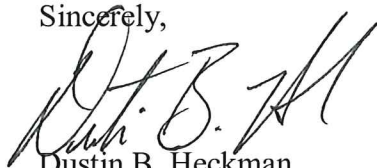
Dustin Heckman, MALHM President
Goodhue County Historical Society
1166 Oak Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

Phone: (651) 388-6024

Email: director@goodhistory.org

Thank you for reviewing this letter and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dustin B. Heckman', written in a cursive style.

Dustin B. Heckman
MALHM President