

## **44<sup>th</sup> House District**

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## **Elgin Rogers, Jr. State Representative**

## **Committees**

Armed Services and Veterans  
Affairs  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Infrastructure  
Transportation  
Ways and Means

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 430 which would allow for additional flexibility to the counties of our state when filling vacancies for the position of county engineer.

I am thankful that the opportunity arose to partner with Representative Klopfenstein on a piece of practical legislation that addresses an issue that so many of our counties struggle with. This bill will allow counties to contract with engineers from other counties to fill vacant positions in the county engineer's office for the remainder of the term if they haven't been able to fill the vacancy through election or appointment. Additionally, this legislation would require that these contracted engineers be paid at the same level as that of the county's own engineer. This provision will make accepting such a role more attractive in order to ensure that these critical positions are filled with qualified engineers.

This bipartisan legislation will give communities across the state the resources they need to fill engineer vacancies. This bill is an effective solution to a solvable problem. Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the Government Oversight Committee: thank you for the opportunity to address you today. We would be happy to take any questions that you may have.