MNCOGI supports principles of HF 474, 1st engrossment

Tomorrow, the House of Representatives will vote on HF 474, a bill that would regulate the use of automated License Plate Reader (LPR) technology. LPR is a data-gathering system used by police agencies to scan vehicle license plates and compare them to police data bases to search for "hits" related to open warrants and other matters.

The Minnesota Coalition on Government Information (MNCOGI) supports the key principles embodied in the 1st engrossment of HF 474. Its language delivers a well-balanced bill that addresses privacy concerns that many have raised, while preserving the use of LPR for legitimate law enforcement purposes.

From MNCOGI's perspective, the bill also provides critical information to the public on the use and scope of LPR systems, so that the citizens of Minnesota can be kept appraised of how such novel technology is being utilized.

The key principles that MNCOGI hopes to see preserved in the final bill include the following:

• **LPR systems should retain hit" data only, and should not retain "non-hit" plate or vehicle data;**

• **"Private data on individuals or nonpublic data" is an appropriate classification for the above, narrow category of LPR "hit" data;**

• **Law enforcement agencies should maintain a log related to LPR use, including the locations of cameras, times of use; and the aggregate number of vehicles and plates recorded;**

• **Audits should be conducted to check on LPR data retention and destruction.**

We would urge House members to preserve the hard work of the Civil Law committee, and support a version of HF 474 that contains the above principles.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Matt Ehling
Board Member
MNCOGI