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MHTA Position Paper on Technology Standards

MHTA Public Policy Principle: *MHTA supports the use of private sector solutions in the use and procurement of technology services and products when it results in better outcomes, such as lower cost and higher service levels for government.*

Minnesota policy makers are debating challenging technology issues related to software interoperability and standards, specifically related to the digital preservation of public documents.

MHTA, as an association of high tech companies and supporting organizations, strongly believes in a free market approach to procurement. State procurement decisions should be based on the same reasons the private sector adheres to - anticipated benefits and cost of the product.

MHTA opposes legislation that mandates the use of any technology standard or product that limits the state's procurement choices.

We recommend letting the market choose winners and the losers, and that the legislature should not mandate one technology, product, software or service over another.