

January 24, 2023

Rep. Rick Hansen
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Letter of Support for HF232 Appropriation Bill

Rep. Hansen,

Thank you for authoring HF232. Discover Cottage Grove, the city's Convention and Visitor Bureau, has been a recipient of grant funds from Explore Minnesota in the past. I can personally attest to the positive outcome Discover Cottage Grove has been able to make within our community and local economy due to the extension of funds.

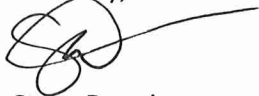
This is the letter of support we sent to Rep. Shane Hudella and Rep. Mark Wiens, who also represent Cottage Grove:

As a member of Minnesota's tourism and hospitality community, Discover Cottage Grove, the Convention and Visitor Bureau of the City of Cottage Grove, MN, supports efforts to pass House File #232 legislation appropriating money to Explore Minnesota Tourism from the general fund for:

- 1) increasing administrative capacity for brand strategy, communications, and industry relations;
- 2) a tourism industry recovery grant program; and
- 3) a grant to Grand Portage Band for local tourism efforts (\$250,000 in fiscal year 2024, onetime).

The City of Cottage Grove has worked tirelessly to support our local businesses throughout the last few years. As you know, these unprecedented times challenged all our communities. As part of our mission to support our local businesses involved in hospitality and recreation, we ask for your support of HF232. This will help us continue to support the businesses that suffered the most.

Sincerely,



Steve Dennis

City of Cottage Grove Council Member and Chairman of Discover Cottage Grove