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February 17, 2021

Dear Legislative Committee Members,

On behalf of the Chisago Lakes Chamber of Commerce and Chisago Lakes Visitors Bureau, we would like to offer our support to Bloom Lake Barn and the Minnesota Rural Event Venue Association (MNREVA). Bloom Lake Barn brings 12,000-15,000 visitors to the Chisago Lakes area each year.

Rural event venues like Bloom Lake Barn are critical to economic development in our region. Each of their events has an expanded footprint that touches all parts of our community, provides additional growth opportunities for our membership, and promotes vitality and entrepreneurs throughout our area.

We are concerned that there is a movement to overly burden this space with excessive regulations that due to its rural location, would jeopardize the ability of Bloom Lake Barn to be in operation. We know they are committed to safe and responsible business operations to ensure the safety and satisfaction of their guests, vendors, and community members. We also know that in 2015, they satisfied the state building and code requirements to receive their Certificate of Occupancy permit to legally operate.

We support Bloom Lake Barn and S.F. No. 524 to clarify the existing building code for rural event venues. I hope that common ground can be found to allow Bloom Lake Barn to continue to host wonderful events in the Chisago Lakes area for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Malchow", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Katie Malchow
Executive Director, Chisago Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Executive Director, Chisago Lakes Visitors Bureau