



March 8, 2023

Representative Hodan Hassan, Chair
Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee
Room 10 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hassan and Members,

On behalf of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, I write today to express my support for HF 1659, an appropriation for the Expo 2027 host organization. As the largest local chamber in Minnesota representing businesses across the Twin Cities region, including in Bloomington, the proposed site for the 2027 Expo, this bid presents a once in a generation opportunity to bring worldwide attention to the innovative work happening in our home state.

Our state's civic and business communities were thrilled that Minnesota received official designation from President Biden as the official United States location for the 2027 World Expo. There is no place better suited on the planet to showcase innovations and discoveries that are advancing health, wellness, and well-being. As a member of the Minnesota USA Expo 2027 board of directors, I have been honored to travel the world promoting our bid and have been encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive response as we look ahead to the June decision.

This appropriation is critical as we continue to lay the groundwork for a successful event, while simultaneously courting significant private investment. We encourage your support and would be happy to provide additional information if necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Weinhagen', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Weinhagen
President & CEO
Minneapolis Regional Chamber

Cc: Representative Nathan Coulter
Representative Jessica Hanson, Vice Chair
Representative Jon Koznick
Representative Sandra Feist
Representative Spencer Igo
Representative Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn
Representative Alicia Kozlowski
Representative Bernie Perryman
Representative Ruth Richardson



Representative Joe Schomacker
Representative Andy Smith
Representative Mike Wiener
Representative Jay Xiong