



**SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA**

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
ANDY RODRIGUEZ, CPRP, DIRECTOR**

City Hall Annex
25 West 4th Street, Suite 400
Saint Paul, MN 55102
Tel: 651-266-6400

February 23rd, 2023

Dear Legislators,

The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department is a strong supporter and partner in the essential work that the Minnesota STEM Partnership (MNSTEM) has done over the past five (5) years and will continue to do in the future. Their programs and initiatives support our young people in expanding their knowledge and interests within the areas of math, science, and technology, while also introducing them to career pathways that they can explore further in the future.

We stand in support of House Bill #1407 and MNSTEM's vision to significantly broaden participation in advancing and emerging technologies like Robotics in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota.

Their work has grown significantly and is a cornerstone infrastructure effort to build critical workforce skills in Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC) where Saint Paul sees the need is the greatest. Their stated goal of thousands of Minnesota BIPOC students being influenced, and future labor skills developed can only be achieved with your vote and support for this exciting and impactful initiative. Their excellent work requires funding to continue deepening skills and broadening of impact across multiple Minnesota communities.

We are grateful for the impact MNSTEM has already made in the community and we stand behind Dr. Wulf, staff, and volunteers.

In advance, thank you for considering a vote in support of House Bill 1407.

Sincerely,

Andy Rodriguez, CPRP
Director, Department of Parks & Recreation
651-266-6365



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