



April 28, 2020

Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman
463 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka
3113 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Kurt Daudt
267 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Susan Kent
2227 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Speaker Hortman, Majority Leader Gazelka, Representative Daudt, and Senator Kent:

On behalf of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) and the Greater Minnesota Partnership (GMNP), we want to thank the House and Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committees for their recent action to make more resources available for small businesses that are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We also want to encourage immediate approval of this investment by the two chambers so that these resources can be made available as quickly as possible for our struggling employers and employees, main streets and communities.

The initial \$30 million establishing the Small Business Emergency Loan program has gone a long way toward helping the businesses ordered to close under Emergency Orders 20-04 and 20-08, but we know that the initial investment does not meet the full need our small employers face. In fact, the initial appropriation has already been fully awarded and there are still many small business owners looking to access the capital needed to keep their businesses running. Across our main streets and small retailers—whether they are in the urban core, the suburbs, or rural communities—the COVID-19 pandemic has created unimaginable financial hardship. Unfortunately, too many of these businesses do not qualify for the Small Business Emergency Loan program because their business was not specifically mentioned in Emergency Orders 20-04 and 20-08.

HF1507 (Stephenson) and SF4481 (Anderson) make the strategic investment our small businesses need to survive the current economic crisis and be positioned to come back as the state's economy begins to reopen. Given that the two bills have significant differences, we urge the two chambers to adopt the following provisions:

- 1) Adopt the House position to invest \$50 million targeted at supporting small employers.
- 2) Adopt the Senate position to target at least \$10 million of the investment into a small employer grant program for employers that do not qualify for the Small Business Emergency Loan program and who employ 10 or fewer employees or the equivalent.

We also urge the Legislature not to place any additional targeting parameters on the loan appropriation beyond making the loans available for any business impacted by Emergency Orders 20-04 and 20-08. This will allow DEED to quickly and efficiently distribute Small Business Emergency Loans using its network of 22 approved community lenders across the state.

Thank you for considering this request. This investment will go a long way toward securing success for businesses as we rebuild our economy.

With Gratitude,



Bradley Peterson
Executive Director
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities



Dan Dorman
Executive Director
Greater Minnesota Partnership

CC: Members, Senate Finance Committee
Members, Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
Members, House Jobs and Economic Development Committee
Kevin McKinnon, DEED
Hue Nguyen, Office of Governor Walz
Sasha Bergman, Office of Governor Walz
Emily Lefholz, Office of Governor Walz
Patrick Tanis, Office of Governor Walz