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February 15, 2023

Representative Fue Lee  
485 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Lee and members of the House Capital Investment Committee:

On behalf of the business, local government, foundation, and nonprofit members of the Greater Minnesota Partnership, I want to thank you for your public release of a bonding bill, and for including critically important investments that will spur economic development in Greater Minnesota. We are particularly pleased with the inclusion of funding for the Greater Minnesota Housing Public Infrastructure Grant program, the Greater Minnesota Child Care Facilities Grant Program, and the Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant program.

In Greater Minnesota, our local governments play a critically important role in supporting economic expansion in our region; economic expansion that would not occur without the strong public/private partnerships that are the bedrock in our region, or without the financial support provided by the State of Minnesota. This bill invests in critical areas that will help grow our economy: child care facilities to address the more than 42,000 child care slots we are missing in Greater Minnesota, housing that we need to allow our employers to recruit the workforce they need, and the industrial sites needed to grow our economy. As this proposal moves forward, we encourage the Minnesota House of Representatives to step forward and partner with our local governments and our businesses, and craft a bonding bill that invests at a level that matches the magnitude of the challenges our communities face, including:

- \$20 million for the Greater Minnesota Child Care Facilities Grant program, as designated in HF1179 (Brand)
- \$10 million for the Greater Minnesota Housing Public Infrastructure Grant program, as designated in HF1073 (Frederick)
- \$20 million for the Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant program, as designated in HF1286 (Wolgamott)

Our membership stands ready to work with you to support the capital investment needed to move the state forward, invest in our economic growth, and support our working families. The time is now, when the state has significant capacity to fund our long-term capital needs through both our debt capacity and our \$17.6 billion surplus, to invest in Minnesota's economic prosperity.

Sincerely,

Amy Baldwin  
Chair, Greater Minnesota Partnership

Scott H. McMahon  
Executive Director, Greater Minnesota Partnership

*The Greater Minnesota Partnership advocates for public policies and investments that stimulate prosperity throughout Greater Minnesota.*