



Febrary 24, 2021

Rep. Paul Marquart  
597 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Fire Code Regulatory Changes

Dear Representative Marquart,

The City of Scandia would like to express its support for Redeemed Farm and the Minnesota Rural Event Venue Association's initiative to urge the State of Minnesota to implement practical fire code classifications that do not overly burden rural event facilities.

Rural event venues like Redeemed Farm are critical to economic development in our region, as businesses like these play a crucial role in our community's efforts to promote agritourism. Each of their events has a footprint that touches all parts of our community, provides additional growth opportunities, and promotes business vitality and entrepreneurs throughout our area by bringing 10,000 visitors to our community each year.

We are concerned that recent stricter interpretation of state fire code classifications are a move that overly burdens these event venues due to their rural location and lack of access to community water systems. We are confident that the continuation of this regulatory approach will jeopardize the ability of Redeemed Farm, and other operations like it, to continue to operate in our community.

These businesses have met appropriate fire safety guidelines under less burdensome classifications, and have a track record for ensuring the safety and satisfaction of their guests, vendors, and the surrounding community.

We hope that common ground can be found to allow Redeemed Farm and other venues like it to continue to host wonderful events in Scandia for years to come.

Sincerely,

Ken Cammilleri, Administrator  
City of Scandia