

Litchfield Downtown Council, Inc. *A 501c3 non-profit organization* PO Box 188, Litchfield MN 55355 320-221-5781 Litchfield.downtown.council@gmail.com

March 10, 2021

Dear Representative Urdahl,

The Litchfield Downtown Council, Inc (LDC) would like to thank you for sponsoring HF 560, historic building facade grants for buildings in a Commercial Historic District, National Register of Historic Places.

Our organization supports the need for a facade grant. We feel an improvement in the appearance of our downtown businesses will promote heritage tourism. It will also increase the economic vitality of our community. The Litchfield Downtown Council is a member of the Minnesota Main Street Program. We see this grant as dovetailing into the principles of the Main Street Program.

Along with COVID, our businesses have had to close for five months in 2020 due to the Highway 12 construction. Using grant funds to improve the public facades of our buildings would greatly assist our businesses to remain open.

Time to enjoy downtown litchfield this facade grant program in anyway we are needed. Our community of 6,700 is like many other communities in Greater Minnesota. Our downtowns are being threatened by shopping in larger cities, big box retails, and on-line shopping. We need to work together to maintain our downtowns. The Litchfield Downtown Council hopes the legislature will support HF560.

Sincerely,

Litchfield Downtown Council, Inc. Board of Directors Larry Ackerman, Betty Allen, Kevin Hovey, Darlene Kotelnicki, Deanna Lease, Connie Lies, Corrina McQuiston, Carl St. Pierre, Garmon Tipka

Purpose: The Litchfield Downtown Council, Inc. is dedicated to provide the residents of Litchfield area with a successful downtown business environment, give back to the community through organizing downtown events, preserve our historic downtown, and make available networking opportunities for our members.