



# African American Leadership Forum

## HF 3028 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OMNIBUS BILL

March 28, 2023

Chair Hodan Hassan  
Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee  
10 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hassan and Committee Members:

The African American Leadership Forum (AALF) is a movement of more than 5,000 African American leaders, institutions, allies, and systems that come together to collaborate and champion solutions that improve the lives and experience of African Americans in Minnesota. For 15 years, AALF Twin Cities has harnessed the collective power of Black communities to solve complex social problems. Our goal is to build a just and healthy society that works equally well for everyone.

The African American Leadership Forum expresses its appreciation for the following provisions included in the House Economic Development omnibus package:

- \$5 million for Community Wealth Building Grants to fund low-interest loans to community businesses that will generate job creation for targeted groups and economic development in low-income areas.
- \$10 million for Targeted Community Capital Project Grant Programs
- \$20 million for the Emerging Developer Fund Program to fund grants and loans to emerging developers, include Black developers

AALF along with its partners in the business community can testify to the need for investments in economic growth and opportunity in Black neighborhoods. As our communities face increased disinvestment, it is critical for the public sector to increase its commitment to growing economic opportunity in Black communities. Thank you for your support of these provisions.

Sincerely,

Amber Jones  
Managing Director, Policy Impact  
African American Leadership Forum