

March 13, 2026

Senate Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 1100
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce Support for SF4357, Bond Issue and Appropriation for the History Center of Olmsted County

Chair Pappas and members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee,

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 1,250 businesses across Southern Minnesota, express our strong support for SF4357. This bill would allocate \$4,000,000 in bond proceeds to the History Center of Olmsted County for the design, construction, furnishing, and equipment of expansion and renovation to the existing History Center of Olmsted County facility.

With more than three million visitors annually to the Rochester area, community amenities such as the History Center of Olmsted County play an important role in the experience of those who come to our region. Through providing visitors an opportunity to engage with the unique character, history, and culture of Olmsted County, we complement our region's nationally recognized healthcare and innovation sectors, strengthening our reputation as a vibrant and welcoming destination.

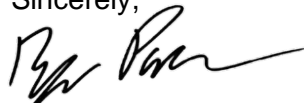
As Rochester and Olmsted County continue to grow, community assets that enhance quality of life become increasingly important. For employers across our region, the availability of high-quality amenities plays a key role in attracting and retaining a talented workforce. Continued investment in the History Center of Olmsted County helps ensure that our community preserves and celebrates the stories and heritage of our community and the businesses that call it home.

Since the initial construction of the facility in the 1970s, the county's population has seen a 97% increase from over 84,000 in 1970 to over 166,000 according to the US Census. Community growth of that magnitude, coupled with visitor growth, showcases the need for the modernization and expansion of the current History Center of Olmsted County facility.

The History Center of Olmsted County also serves as an important educational resource, partnering regularly with local schools to provide K-12 students with hands-on opportunities to learn about the history of Olmsted County. Enhancing the museum's facilities will expand opportunities for students to engage with historical items, participate in educational programming, and develop a deeper understanding of our past and how it shapes our future.

The Chamber strongly supports the History Center of Olmsted County's bonding request and respectfully urges your support for SF4357.

Sincerely,



Ryan Parsons
President
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce



Jonathon Krull
Vice President, Public Affairs
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce