

February 3, 2021

Representative Paul Marquart
Chair, House Taxes Committee
597 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Marquart and House Taxes Committee members:

We believe that Minnesotans can rise to meet the challenges of our times: a public health emergency unlike any in our lifetimes, a deep and unequal economic downturn, and a long-overdue reckoning with Minnesota's stark racial disparities.

When we fully recognize what our communities need to thrive, it's clear that the gap between current state revenues and the investments needed is large and growing. **Only with new revenue can the state fully respond to the pandemic and hardship caused by the economic downturn, protect existing community and public services that Minnesotans count on, and build the more equitable recovery Minnesotans deserve.**

This recession may be the most unequal in modern history, and is doing the most harm to those with the least resources to get through it, including lower-income Minnesotans and Minnesotans of color. At the same time, many of those with the greatest resources of income and wealth are growing their wealth during this time.

Minnesota is a state of abundance, and we know the path to a stronger, more equitable recovery is through greater investment in the health, well-being, and economic stability of all Minnesotans. **We are writing in support of Governor Walz's approach to raise taxes on those who can afford to pay more, the households and corporations with the greatest resources, and for including tax reductions that advance equity and economic security for low- and moderate-income Minnesotans.**

Wise use of the state's budget reserve and maximizing federal dollars are important short-term revenue sources, and permanent state tax increases are essential to Minnesota's ability to build a more equitable state. We ask you to follow the Governor's lead and prioritize revenue-raising options that focus on those with the most resources, and that make the tax system more fair, equitable, and just.

Sincerely,

100% Campaign
AFSCME Council 5
AFSCME Council 65



Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
Avenues for Youth
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Minnesota State Legislative Board
Center For Economic Inclusion
Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center
East Central Area Labor Council
Education Minnesota
HOME Line
ISALAH
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis
Land Stewardship Project
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota
Main Street Alliance
Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
Minnesota AFL-CIO
Minnesota Budget Project
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Minnesota Council on Foundations
Minnesota Environmental Partnership
Minnesota First Community Solutions
Minnesota Housing Partnership
Minnesota Nurses Association
Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO
MN Mental Health Advocates
Northeast Area Labor Council
Northeast Contemporary Services, Inc.
Pillsbury United Communities
Plymouth Area Indivisible
Prepare + Prosper
PRISM
Rochester Art Center
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota
South Sudanese Community of Minnesota
Southeast Minnesota Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Southside Family Nurturing Center
TakeAction Minnesota
The Arc Minnesota
The Center for Victims of Torture
UNITE HERE Minnesota
West Minnesota AFL-CIO