



Meet **Minneapolis**
City by Nature

Co-Chair Dave Pinto
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chair Dave Baker
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 25, 2026

Dear Co-Chair Pinto, Co-Chair Baker and members of the House Workforce, Labor and Economic Development committee:

On behalf of Meet Minneapolis, I am eager to express my support for HF4613, which as amended, will create a new grant program to help Minnesota-founded events pursue new initiatives to expand their reach and increase their impact on local economies.

As Minneapolis' destination marketing organization, our mission is to positively impact the economic and social prosperity of our Minneapolis community by attracting visitors, meetings and events that directly support jobs and local businesses, and generate critical revenues. Annual events that draw visitors from around the world to Minneapolis and our region provide an opportunity to introduce new people to our incredible state.

Events like the Twin Cities Marathon provide a significant economic boost to Minneapolis, helping bring in visitors from around the state, country and globe every year to stay in our hotels, spend money at restaurants and other businesses, and appreciate all our city has to offer. State funds to help these event organizers increase the size or duration of their event, bring in additional participants from around the state or outside Minnesota, and enhance the participation of local businesses will directly impact the economic and social prosperity of our community - something we strive for every day at Meet Minneapolis.

With strategic investment now, grant programs like the one proposed in HF4613 can help our city and state better compete at a national and global level and realize the full potential of proven events as they seek to grow economic impact. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melvin Tennant, CAE
President & CEO
Meet Minneapolis