

January 9, 2023

Chair Hornstein
Minnesota House Transportation Committee
5623 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

We support H.F. 4 (Representative Gomez).

Minnesota businesses value the contributions of immigrants to our state. Their roles as workers, entrepreneurs and consumers are important to the development and growth of our economy and our communities.

We support H.F. 4 for workforce and public safety reasons. Our state is experiencing acute workforce shortages in almost every industry and every community. Unemployment rates remain at historic lows, the labor participation rate is 6th highest nationally, and the pattern of more residents leaving than staying in Minnesota further exacerbates our workforce shortage. Immigrant workers are a key to this challenge.

Minnesota employers rely on immigrant workers to serve their customers and produce the variety of products and services we use and enjoy. To do this safely, workers should complete drivers' license training, testing and licensing requirements, including securing insurance. We believe this will make roads safer for all drivers and enhance the work and community contributions of immigrant workers.

We collectively support federal immigration reform. As we wait for solutions on the federal level, the state also has a role in dealing with state specific issues on this matter. This legislation addresses a state-based concern and a state employment and public safety need.

Thank you for your consideration.



Laura Bordelon
MN Chamber of Commerce



Tamara Nelson
Agrigrowth



Lucas Sjostrom
MN Milk Producers Association



Jill Resler
MN Pork Producers

Cc: Representative Gomez