



March 10, 2021

RE: Letter of Support for Bill HF560

Dear Respected Legislators,

My name is Eric Day and I am the Executive Director of the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC). The MMDC is a regional development organization, working to support economic development, interjurisdictional cooperation, and improved quality of life throughout Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville Counties.

The purpose of this note is to express Mid-Minnesota Development Commission Support for HF560, put forward by Representative Dean Urdahl. This bill will provide façade grants to businesses located within historic commercial districts in towns of less than 15,000 residents. This funding will reinvigorate and revitalize main streets throughout the state, as financially strapped businesses receive an injection of resources needed to improve their aging buildings. It will also create jobs and stimulate local economies, as involved tradespeople purchase goods and services in the community and as grantees, and their commercial neighbors, enjoy increased business patronage from local residents and community visitors. Additionally, this support will help communities preserve critical housing stock found within historic commercial districts.

The MMDC stands ready to assist qualifying business/building owners with related fund applications within our four-county region. When called upon we will also assist with grant-related promotion, fund distribution, and other related activities to ensure funds have the desired economic impact. We believe the investments supported by HF560 will positively-impact historic commercial districts for generations. Thank you for consideration of this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Day', is written over a faint, light blue watermark of the MMDC logo.

Eric Day, MMDC Executive Director