



March 20, 2023

Chair Hodan Hassan
State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hassan and members of the Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) supports HF 2015 (Rep. Kozlowski) to provide funding to the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) to support their remarkable work in promoting economic growth and development for Minnesota's Latino and immigrant communities.

For nearly two decades, LEDC has been a trusted partner for Latino entrepreneurs and small business owners in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota. LEDC provides a wide range of small business development services for Latino and BIPOC entrepreneurs at every stage of their business journey, from developing foundational business skills to launching or expanding their business.

As the only Latino-focused Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) in the upper Midwest, LEDC is uniquely positioned to understand and respond to the specific challenges and needs facing Latino entrepreneurs and small business owners. Their programs are fully bilingual and led by Latinos, reflecting their deep commitment to creating culturally and linguistically appropriate services for Minnesota's Latino community.

LEDC's work is critical in addressing the systemic barriers that prevent Latino entrepreneurs and business owners from accessing the capital and resources necessary to succeed. We strongly urge you to support LEDC with state funding as they continue to provide essential services to the Latino and immigrant communities in the state.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NHR', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Nicauris Heredia Rosario, Legislative and Policy Director
Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA)