



February 26, 2024

Representative Jay Xiong
Workforce Development Finance and Policy
557 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for H.F. 3194 – Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarships Pilot

Dear Chair Xiong,

On behalf of Valleyfair, I would like to take the opportunity to express our support for H.F. 3194 (Tabke) to create a Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarships Pilot for Scott County.

This pilot program will help in bridging the skills gap in Scott County while addressing the needs of our local job market. In addition, through the Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce and Shakopee Chamber Foundation's continued efforts to help the underserved populations in our community, this program will help alleviate barriers, including financial burdens associated with post-secondary education costs, while also securing current and future career pathways for individuals to succeed.

The Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce and Shakopee Chamber Foundation are also working with area post-secondary institutions to bring tailored training programs into Scott County. This program would be impactful in helping to eliminate transportation costs for underserved individuals due to there not being a post-secondary institution located directly within Scott County.

The Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce and Shakopee Chamber Foundation, through its community partnerships with organizations such as Valleyfair, will allow this program, if appropriated, to have a significant positive impact on both our underserved communities, local workforce, and businesses throughout Scott County. It can also become a model for other communities in the State of Minnesota to model their initiatives after.

We strongly urge your support for H.F. 3194 and appreciate the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Raul Rehnberg". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.

Raul Rehnberg
Vice President & General Manager
Valleyfair Family Amusement Park