



February 23, 2024

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

RE: Support for HF 3194 – Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarships Pilot

Dear Honorable Chair Xiong,

On behalf of the City of Shakopee, we thank you for the opportunity to support HF 3194 (Tabke) to create a Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarships Pilot. This pilot program will help bridge skills gaps and address the needs of our local job market while offering a model for the future for other communities. The Shakopee Chamber of Commerce has been a trusted partner in this area and is particularly connected in the community to ensure its success. The Chamber advocates and sponsors our school system's Next Generation Academies model that promotes workforce development, and they also lead the Shakopee Chamber Foundation that focuses on workforce and leadership development, education, and business resources.

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 to help eliminate transportation costs for underserved individuals due to there not being a post-secondary institution located directly within Scott County. This program will only help to allow these efforts to grow and succeed.

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

We strongly urge your support for HF 3194 and appreciate the opportunity to support this effort.

Sincerely,

William H. Reynolds  
City Administrator