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March 29, 2023

Representative Hodan Hassan
597 State Office Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hassan and members of the House Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Greater Minnesota Partnership, and the businesses, local governments, chambers of commerce, foundations, and nonprofits we represent, I write today to thank you for including critically important investments for Greater Minnesota in your omnibus bill.

In particular, we want to call out the inclusion of funding for the DEED Child Care Economic Development Grant and the funding for the Minnesota Initiative Foundation's child care grant. This money, in addition to funding included in the workforce omnibus bill, fully meets the Governor's budget request for these critically important programs. In addition, the creation of the Office of Child Care Community Partnerships will allow for better collaboration between our Greater Minnesota local governments, businesses leaders, and additional resources and services available across other state agencies.

We are also pleased to see two additional investments in the omnibus bill that will have a significant impact on Greater Minnesota's economy: \$6 million to support the six Initiative Foundations' business revolving loan program and \$3.6 million for the Business Development Public Infrastructure. However, the proposed investment for these two efforts falls short of the requests and fails to meet the need in our communities.

While this bill moves forward and is eventually reconciled with the Governor's and the Senate's proposals, we hope the final bill will make strong and balanced investments throughout all corners of the state. With 45 percent of the state's population residing in the 80 counties of Greater Minnesota, it is critically important that we invest in all families and all communities.

With gratitude,

Scott H. McMahon
Executive Director

The Greater Minnesota Partnership advocates for public policies and investments that stimulate prosperity throughout Greater Minnesota.