



January 30, 2021

Minnesota House of Representatives
State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota State Senate
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the Minnesota House and Senate,

On behalf of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, Minneapolis Downtown Council and our nearly 2,500 member companies, we write to urge swift funding of the Governor's proposed State Aid For Emergencies (SAFE) Account. We wish to support our leaders at the state and local level who are determined to be well prepared as we approach the March 8th trial of Derek Chauvin, and we feel that providing local law enforcement with proper funding and flexibility will ensure our communities are safe and secure.

The last month has seen unprecedented threats of violence across our nation, and we owe a debt of gratitude to law enforcement for keeping our State Capitol and government buildings safe. We have the opportunity to continue to ensure that those who wish to peacefully exert their First Amendment rights are able to do so while protecting our communities from those who wish to do harm. Last year we witnessed hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of property damage done to businesses large and small that make significant contributions to our state. It is incumbent on all of us to do everything possible in preparation to avoid a similar result this year.

We are aware of concerns about providing state funding that in the short term will be targeted towards protecting the Twin Cities. We strongly believe that the economic recovery and vitality of the Twin Cities is critical to the economic recovery and vitality of the state. Additionally, we now know that people from all over the state contributed to the unrest that devastated our communities. Simply put, the Twin Cities should not be expected to fend for itself and ensuring we have proper resources will reflect well on the entire state.

As the Governor has stated, to allow for proper implementation and ensure public safety, the legislature should appropriate the necessary funds to address this immediate need no later than February 8th, 2021. Our region cannot afford to take the risk of being unprepared, and Minnesotans cannot afford to risk slowing recovery in the economic driver of our state. The legislature's support is vital to accomplishing this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Weinhagen'.

Jonathan Weinhagen
President & CEO
Minneapolis Regional Chamber

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Cramer'.

Steve Cramer
President & CEO
Minneapolis Downtown Council