



March 29, 2023

The Honorable Hodan Hassan, Chair
Economic Development Finance and Policy
597 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Jon Koznick, Ranking Minority Member
Economic Development Finance and Policy
281 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hassan, Ranking Minority Member Koznick and Members of the Committee:

We are writing in support of several provisions in the DE for HF3028. In particular, we support sections appropriating funds for Explore Minnesota Tourism as well as funds impacting hospitality and tourism.

The pandemic shutdowns had an outsized impact on Minnesota's tourism and hospitality businesses and recovery for our industry has been slow, uneven and is still quite fragile. Data from a 2022 study by the U.S. Travel Association indicates that Minnesota's tourism industry has suffered at least \$11.7 billion in travel spending losses since 2019.

The following provisions in HF3028 DE amendment will help bring back events and conferences, stimulate our local hospitality economies and fuel our tourism ecosystem. We thank you for the following provisions that will have a positive impact on hospitality businesses:

- \$4M for economic relief for businesses located in Canadian Border communities
- \$5.9M for new Explore Minnesota Tourism initiatives
- \$3M/year for large scale sporting events
- \$625K/year for tourism and hospitality related to Governor's Fishing Opener
- \$88K/year to create new resources to engage the tourism industry
- \$87K/year to develop a long-term tourism sustainability plan
- \$2M for tourism industry recovery grants

These provisions and others in the bill will help continue to build on the positive progress the hospitality and tourism industries have made in an effort to recover. We encourage members of the committee to support HF3028. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Liz Rammer, President & CEO
Hospitality Minnesota