



May 4, 2020

Representative Andrew Carlson, Chair of the Property and Local Tax Division
Representative Paul Marquart, Chair of the Tax Committee
Representative Greg Davids, Ranking Minority
State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 346

Dear Representative Carlson, Marquart, and Davids;

The City of Grand Rapids respectfully submits this testimony regarding House File 346 as follows:

- The City of Grand Rapids, in accordance with M.S. 297A.99, Local Sales Taxes, respectfully submitted a request for authorization from the State of Minnesota to impose a local sales and use tax on January 8, 2020, for improvements at the IRA Civic Center prior to the deadline established in law;
- In preparing the submittal, the City clearly showed, through studies and feasibility reports that the IRA Civic Center is truly a “regional facility”; and
- Additionally, the City submitted clear, accurate information for every requirement of the law in M.S. 297A.99 that you amended into law during the 2019 legislative session.

It is extremely disappointing at this time, to learn that you are considering a delay/moratorium on any new local sales and use tax proposals. Especially when the requests comply with the very law, you created last session.

The City of Grand Rapids appreciates your support and requests that you include authorization for cities, who have complied with the law that you created, to move forward with referendums on local sales and use tax during this current legislative session.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 218.398.0584 or tpagel@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us

Regards,

Tom Pagel
City Administrator

CC: Representative Sandy Layman and City Council