



March 28, 2023

Representative Hodan Hassan, Chair
House Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee
597 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hassan and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Tourism Growth Coalition, the Minnesota Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, and the Community of Minnesota Resorts, we want thank you for the inclusion of funding for the Tourism Industry Recovery Grant Program in the House Economic Development Finance omnibus budget bill.

Additionally, we want to thank you for funding many of the Governor's budget recommendations for Explore Minnesota Tourism.

The Tourism Industry Recovery Grant Program will accelerate the state's tourism industry and grant funds will be used to support and attract meetings, conventions and group business, multicomunity and high-visibility events, and tourism marketing.

A successful tourism and hospitality industry plays a vital role in the success of local communities, regional centers, and the state. Increased tourism activity benefits local restaurants, bars, resorts, lodging, gas stations, grocery stores, bait shops, theaters, event planners, stage crews, printing shops, outdoor recreation providers, retail shops, and much more!

Again, thank you for your support of tourism funding and specifically, funding for the Tourism Industry Recovery grant program.

Thank you,

Paul Larsen, President
MN Tourism Growth Coalition

Tim Zunker, Chair
MN Assoc. Convention &
Visitors Bureaus

Mike Schwieters, President
Community of MN Resorts