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mpls, mn 55402

Co-Chair Dave Pinto
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chair Dave Baker
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-Chair Pinto, Co-Chair Baker and members of the House Workforce, Labor and Economic Development Committee,

On behalf of the Minneapolis Downtown Council, I am submitting a letter of support for HF4613, which as amended, will create a new grant program to help Minnesota-founded events pursue new initiatives to expand their reach and increase their positive impact on local economies.

The Minneapolis Downtown Council is in its 70th year as a downtown business association. Despite the challenging times our city and downtown has been through, event attendance and activating our community remains a primary reason for people to gather downtown.

Annual events provide a consistent and reliable economic boost to downtown Minneapolis and our region, helping bring in millions of visitors from around the state, country and globe every year to stay in our hotels, spend money at restaurants and other businesses, and appreciate all our city has to offer. State funds to help these event organizers increase the size or duration of their event, bring in additional participants from around the state or outside Minnesota, and enhance the participation of local businesses. This legislation will support our work to create an irresistible vibe in downtown Minneapolis for events and attendees.

With strategic investment now, grant programs like the one proposed in HF4613 can help our region better compete at a national and global level and realize the full potential of proven events as they look to grow their economic impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Duininck', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Adam Duininck
President & CEO
Mpls Downtown Council