



West Bank Business Association
1501 S 4th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55454

March 23, 2023

Honorable Kari Dziedzic
Senate Majority Leader
3113 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Mohamud Noor
Minnesota House of Representatives
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2070 and HF 1943

Dear Majority Leader Dziedzic and Representative Noor:

I am writing to support Senate File 2070 and House File 1943, bills to appropriate \$20 million from bond proceeds for a grant to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for a new Cedar Riverside Recreation Center. The West Bank Business Association exists to engage the business community in the responsible economic development of the West Bank district while preserving the unique character and heritage of the Cedar-Riverside area. WBBA is dedicated to preserving the neighborhood's strengths while identifying and helping address the neighborhood's changing needs bringing positive improvements to all, while serving as a resource for all of the business and commercial property owners on the West Bank.

Our business community is aware that it does not exist separate from our community of residents and that the economic status and social welfare of our community as a whole is a key ingredient for business success and a vital commercial corridor. This \$20 million state funding is essential to bring expanded recreation facilities along with opportunities for more centralized social and support services to one of the most underserved and densely populated areas in the State of Minnesota.

The West Bank Business Association was one of many stakeholders that participated in the community engagement and planning for this long-deferred project. Our community is one of the most densely populated communities in the Midwest and suffers from a lack of space needed for essential community services. A new and expanded recreation center designed to meet the various needs of our diverse community is long overdue and we appreciate this effort to secure funding for this important project.

Sincerely,

KJ Starr

Executive Director

West Bank Business Association