

March 17, 2026

Senator Liz Boldon
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3205
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Duane Quam
658 Cedar St
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Expansion and Modernization of the History Center of Olmsted County

Dear Senator Boldon and Representative Quam:

I am writing to provide general context regarding the proposed bonding request entitled “Expansion and Modernization of the History Center of Olmsted County,” submitted by the Olmsted County Historical Society in partnership with Olmsted County.

Rochester and Olmsted County are experiencing sustained growth associated with the Destination Medical Center (DMC) initiative, a long-term public-private economic development effort focused on strengthening Rochester’s role as a center for health care, research, and innovation. The DMC Development Plan and its recent updates emphasize coordinated, purposeful growth through investment in infrastructure, community amenities, public realm, transportation systems, and economic development activity to support continued development and position Rochester as a global destination. Over the past decade, Rochester has experienced measurable growth in employment, population, and development activity associated with the DMC initiative, alongside continued high levels of patient and visitor inflow.

Olmsted County currently has a population of approximately 180,000 residents and receives more than three million visitors annually, significantly greater figures than when the history center was opened decades ago. This increasing level of activity places demand on infrastructure, services, and amenities serving residents, patients, and visitors.

The proposed project involves the expansion and modernization of the History Center of Olmsted County, including facility improvements and additional space for exhibits, collections, and programming. The History Center is a regional cultural and educational institution with programming, archival functions, and public access components.

The project is one of a range of community and cultural investments that can occur alongside our ongoing community growth and development.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this context and thank you for giving this proposal its due consideration.

Sincerely,



Patrick Seeb
Executive Director