



Chair Fue Lee  
485 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-4262

Chair Lee and members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of the Somali Museum, I extend our deepest gratitude for your ongoing commitment to cultural preservation and education within our community. We write to you today to seek your support for HF3631, a legislative proposal critical to the continued vitality and growth of the Somali Museum, the world's only museum dedicated entirely to Somali heritage.

The mission of the Somali Museum is not only to preserve our rich collection of art and artifacts but also to employ these treasures as dynamic tools for education and cultural exchange. Our goal is to bridge generations and communities, allowing young Somalis raised in the United States to explore and connect with their ancestral culture. The proposed site on Franklin Avenue represents more than a location—it is the future home for these invaluable exchanges and learning opportunities.

As an educational and cultural cornerstone, our offerings include an array of programs designed to engage, educate, and inspire. Museum guided tours, Travel Exhibit, Somali 101 presentations, The Somali Museum Dance Troupe and Weaving Workshops are testament to the museum's role in promoting the richness of Somali arts and traditions. They are crucial for cultural preservation, ensuring that traditional arts and crafts, along with the stories and languages that accompany them, continue to flourish across borders and generations.

Investing in the Somali Museum by supporting HF3631 is an affirmation of the importance of cultural diversity and the role it plays in enriching our society as a whole. The acquisition of the site on Franklin Avenue is a critical step towards securing a permanent home for the Somali Museum, enabling us to expand our reach and deepen our impact.

We respectfully urge you to consider the profound implications of your support for HF3631. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued support of cultural and educational initiatives. We are hopeful for your favorable response and look forward to the possibility of furthering our mission with your esteemed endorsement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the date "03/09/2024" written in a similar cursive style.

Osman M. Ali  
Founder & Executive Director  
The Somali Museum  
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