



May 3, 2020

**VIA E-MAIL**

Chair Paul Marquart  
House Tax Committee  
597 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Carla Nelson  
Senate Tax Committee  
3235 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Marquart, Chair Nelson and Members of the Tax Conference Committee,

The Minnesota Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus (MACVB) supports inclusion of the Tourism Improvement District (TID) authorizing legislation included in the House Omnibus Tax Bill. This legislation authorizes local governments to create a "Tourism Improvement District (TID)" through a local ordinance process.

The tourism and hospitality industry has been one of the hardest hit industries during the COVID-19 pandemic and will likely be one of the last to recover. This legislation is crucial to the economic recovery of our industry. Tourism Improvement Districts have been established by approximately 200 cities in 18 states across the country.

This is a self-funded initiative that would not require any government dollars and would generate significant revenue to aid in expediting the recovery of this economic driving industry. The service charge implemented with a TID would be supplemental to existing funding provided to Convention and Visitor Bureaus (CVBs) through the local option lodging tax and private revenue **which may not supplant other funding.**

We ask for your support of this bill so that communities across Minnesota can accelerate the much-needed recovery of the state's tourism and hospitality industry.

Sincerely,

Anna Thill, Chair of the Board  
Minnesota Association of CVBs