

April 12, 2026

Honorable Chairs Frazier and Torkelson, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

We are a group of 18 Metro Based and Greater MN serving businesses that came together to advocate out of necessity over the last few months. Many of us are based in or near cultural corridors in the Metro area and at least 8 of us have a business location that is located or serves in Greater Minnesota. Thank you for considering our needs as a group of small business owners in Minnesota who were greatly impacted by Operation Metro Surge.

The impacts of immigration enforcement during 2025 and especially during OMS over the months of December 2025-February 2026 on our businesses were abrupt and extreme. While we have worked hard to make it through various crisis, including the Covid-19 pandemic and the George Floyd social uprising, nothing quite compares to what we have lived the past year and especially the past few months, as our target market customers were the primary communities impacted by federal enforcement activity. Many of our businesses saw deep drops in sales over prior years. Some of us were just starting new businesses, while some of us are long-standing businesses and were still impacted. Some of us had to close shops, lay off employees, lost workers due to fear, and/or fell deeper in debt. Some of us are wholesalers who are owed money by smaller businesses that purchase ingredients from us, as they were impacted by the operation. Some of us considered or are still considering bankruptcy due to the financial situation created by this operation. Many of us were in a growth phase, cancelling or pausing investments that would've created more jobs and income.

While we are seeing some return in sales, as customers slowly regain trust to be in public, the damage has been done. We still have work to do to regain customers, employees, and to pay off our accumulated debts. Our landlords and the financial institutions we owe money to are waiting for our payments. Some of us have been threatened by providers to whom we owe money. We are hopeful that we will not have any more disruptions by federal agents, but if there's any sign of return of this operation, we may never be able to recuperate. In the meantime, we ask that you support our businesses' needs and support funding efforts to help us stabilize.

We would appreciate the support of the Ways and Means Committee and of the House of Representatives on any support funds that would help our businesses return to stability, including the proposals of Rep. Xiong in H.F. 4477 and Rep. Frazier in H.F. 4342, and any other funds that have been presented in the House, which create a small business support fund to substantially support those who were impacted by increased immigration enforcement over the last year and especially during Operation Metro Surge.

We are not asking for a handout. We provide jobs and economic opportunities for Minnesotans in both the metro area and Greater MN cities. Our businesses together collect millions in sales tax for local governments, employ hundreds of people every year, and contribute in so many other taxes and ways. We do our part to grow Minnesota and we hope you will support us now that we need it, in order to continue doing so.

Please see our business names listed below. All of us were impacted and are in support of any small business stabilization funds to help us make it through yet another major crisis.

Thank you for hearing us,

1. **La Michoacana Purépecha 1** – Willmar, St. Cloud, Shakopee, Lakeville, Brooklyn Park, Bloomington, Apple Valley, Eagan, East Lake Street-Minneapolis
2. **La Michoacana Purépecha 3** – Rochester
3. **El Potro Mexican Restaurant** – Grand Rapids
4. **El Potro Mexican Restaurant 2** – Brainerd
5. **Señor Patrón Mexican Restaurant** – Anoka
6. **Cinco de Mayo Mexican Restaurant** – Roseau
7. **Latinx Imports** – Eastside St. Paul, serving the region
8. **CentroMex Supermercado** – Eastside St. Paul
9. **Los Gallos VIII** – Eastside, St. Paul
10. **Los Gallos XI** – Eastside, St. Paul
11. **La Michoacana Purépecha 2** – Eastside St. Paul
12. **Los Ocampo Restaurant & Bar** – Eastside St. Paul - Arcade and Battle Creek, Frogtown St. Paul., Merrium Park St. Paul, East Lake Street-Minneapolis, Downtown West-Minneapolis
13. **El Guanaco Bakery y Cafe** – St. Paul, Minneapolis, Bloomington, Savage
14. **Minisuper La Chiquis** – Northend, St. Paul
15. **Taco H, dba Tromperia el Zac** – Northend, St. Paul
16. **El Burrito Mercado** – St. Paul
17. **La Mexicana Supermercado** - Minneapolis
18. **The Perfect Coffee** – Northend, St. Paul