

Chair M. Nelson
State Government Finance and Elections Committees

June 23, 2021

Mr. Chair and members:

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (“the Council”) is charged by the Legislature to advise the Legislature and the Governor on matters of importance to Minnesota’s Asian Pacific communities, and in doing so, advocate on behalf of these communities within state government. It is in this capacity that we write to express our appreciation to Chairs Kiffmeyer and Nelson and their committee members for the operational increase provided to the Council for the 2022-2023 biennium in the final agreement on the omnibus State Government bill.

Providing this operational increase to the Council will ensure that we are able to maintain the high level of service that is expected of the Council by our communities and state government. The importance of having the necessary resources to efficaciously carry out our duties was reinforced during this session, as the Council’s active staff capacity was reduced to below 50% even as the COVID-19 pandemic created greater needs than ever from our diverse and statewide communities. As the pandemic eases, the aftershocks will continue to be felt throughout our communities for years to come. The operational increase will better position the Council to act throughout the next biennium in the timely, effective manner expected by our communities and state government.

Once again, we thank you for providing the Council with the resources needed to maintain our capacity to serve our communities and act as a reliable and accurate resource to both the legislative and executive branches of state government. We take our responsibility to effectively use state resources seriously, and will continue to ensure the best return on the state’s investment in fulfilling our statutory duties in the next biennium.

Sincerely,



Sia Her
Executive Director
651-757-1741
Sia.her@state.mn.us

CC: Senator Eric Pratt
Speaker Melissa Hortman
Representative Jim Nash