



March 3, 2021

Representative Kristin Bahner
525 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for [HF1345](#) (Bahner) – Maple Grove local sales and use tax authorization for the expansion and renovation of the Maple Grove Community Center.

Dear Representative Bahner,

Thank you for authoring HF1345. The North Metro Mayors Association (NMMA) views authorization of local sales and use taxes as an option for cities and residents to assist in funding local projects of significant regional impact. NMMA supports HF1345 and the City of Maple Grove's efforts to utilize a local option for expanding and renovating the Maple Grove Community Center.

NMMA recognizes the expansion and renovation of the Maple Grove Community Center as a regionally significant project that will benefit the north metro region. Welcoming over 650,000 visitors annually, the Center and surrounding amenities attract visitors from throughout Minnesota and all regions of the United States for a vast variety of events, conferences, tournaments, and other activities which prove to be major economic drivers for the region.

As an advocate of local government control, NMMA supports empowering the City Council and residents of Maple Grove to determine whether to use a half cent local option sales tax to fund the expansion and renovation of the Maple Grove Community Center.

Representing cities with a combined population of more than 450,000 Minnesota residents, NMMA is a collaboration of 15 north metro cities plus community partners working together to encourage private and public investments in the northern suburbs. NMMA member cities include Andover, Anoka, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Circle Pines, Coon Rapids, Dayton, Fridley, Maple Grove, Mounds View, New Brighton, New Hope, Ramsey, and Spring Lake Park.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jerry Koch
City of Coon Rapids
NMMA President

Mayor Ryan Karasek
City of Champlin
NMMA Vice-President

Mayor Kathi Hemken
City of New Hope
Former President