



March 16, 2021

Rep. Mohamud Noor, Chair  
Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota State Legislature

**RE: Support for [HF2019](#) - Nonprofit Infrastructure Grant Program (NIGP)**

Dear Chair Noor,

I am Gene Gelgelu President and CEO at African Economic Development Solutions (AEDS). I am writing to support HF2019 which is being heard in the Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee on Wednesday, March 17th. This bill would appropriate funding to Propel Nonprofits for the purpose of regranting to small nonprofit organizations serving historically underserved communities. As nonprofits we have struggled with the impact of COVID-19. Our communities need us more than ever as we seek to recover from the devastating and disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on BIPOC communities.

I was a member of the community panel that reviewed and recommended organizations for the grants in 2019. From reading those proposals and the depth of the discussion and deliberations, I can attest to the need for this support and the value of investing in infrastructure and program capacity to serve the community. These nonprofit organizations are important leaders in their communities, including their response to the demands brought about by the public health crisis of COVID-19

For the above reasons, I ask that you support HF2019. Investment in the nonprofit sector is important because we provide essential services in our communities and partner with the public and private sector. You may contact me at 6516469411 Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Gelgelu", written in a cursive style.

Gene Gelgelu, President and CEO  
African Economic Development Solutions