

April 12, 2026

Dear Chairs Frazier and Torkelson

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would like to emphasize that enforcement has not only impacted the metro areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul but has also significantly affected those of us who operate small businesses in rural communities.

My husband Tomas and I own Kerkhoven Country Butcher, a small meat processing facility in Kerkhoven near Willmar, MN. We are both legal immigrants. I came to this country from Venezuela 35 years ago. My husband came from Cuba 31 years ago.

We started Kerkhoven Country Butcher in 2019, got our 1st license for custom butchery in early 2020 and our Equal II license - which allows us to produce and process meat and poultry products for wholesale within the state - in late 2020. We are Halal. We specialize in sheep, goat, and beef. In starting our business, we had help from our farmer neighbor who helped us get our permits and build our meat shop.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) helped us with a small Meat and Poultry Processing Grant and their inspection division guided us on how to comply with MDA rules for meat safety. Additionally, we have worked with Mr. Paul Sobocinski of Minnesota Farmers Union Solving the Local Meat Processing Bottleneck Project.

Our meat is sold locally in Willmar and St. Cloud. Meat processing supports farmers and our local community. Operation Metro Surge significantly hurt rural Minnesota communities like Willmar and St. Cloud.

Because of ICE, our small meat processing plant had a reduction in sales to our main retail outlets of about \$6,500. Additionally, our weekend traffic from immigrant friends and neighbors, who would often stop by our processing plant, significantly declined, costing us about \$5,350. Our customers were afraid to come out. This threatened our ability to stay in business and serve the community we love so dearly.

Chair Frazier, we simply love this country! Our ability to start this small business would only be a dream in the countries we came from. We urge this committee to provide relief and support to the small businesses across this state that were negatively impacted by ICE.

Thank you, Chair Frazier, for already sponsoring a bill supporting relief and for the opportunity to share our story.

Giorgia Gallardo
Kerkhoven Country Butcher
1015 145th Ave SE
Kerkhoven, MN 56252

March 13, 2026

Chair Cedrick Frazier

Chair Paul Torkelson

Members of the House Ways & Means Committee

Dear Representatives and Members of the Committee,

We write to you as a collective of Minnesota small business owners, independent contractors, and professional Realtors dedicated to the economic vitality of our state. Our businesses—ranging from real estate and professional services to local trade—serve as the backbone of our neighborhoods. We are writing today to report a devastating and shared contraction in our business activity directly linked to the recent "Metro Surge" operations in Minnesota.

The climate of fear and the reports of detentions based on "reasonable suspicion" have created an immediate paralysis in local commerce. As professionals on the front lines, we have witnessed a staggering impact: **approximately 80% of our active clients and customers have either halted their business transactions, paused their property searches, or withdrawn from the market entirely.**

This is not a matter of market fluctuation; it is a direct result of a community in hiding. Families and individuals are now afraid to engage in public contracts, provide documentation, or utilize local services for fear of being targeted due to their skin tone, accent, or background. When 80% of a business pipeline vanishes, the consequences are statewide:

- **Economic Stagnation:** A sharp decline in local consumer spending and service contracts.
- **Housing Market Instability:** A significant reduction in home sales and future property tax revenue.
- **Business Vulnerability:** Small businesses are struggling to meet payroll, rent, and operational costs due to this artificial market contraction.

We respectfully urge this committee to support a statewide stabilization plan to protect the diverse business fabric of Minnesota, including small business relief grants, short-term liquidity support through DEED, and a formal economic impact assessment of these enforcement operations.

Our commitment to Minnesota is unwavering, but we need leadership to ensure that all business owners and their clients can participate in the economy without fear. We are prepared to provide further testimony or data regarding these shared experiences.

Respectfully,

The Undersigned Minnesota Small Business Owners & Professionals

Name	Name of Business	Signature	Date
Keili mac	happy nails	kmac	03/13/2026
Diego Balvoa	Balvoa Construction	Balvoa Diego	03/13/2026
Maria Ibarra	Micholandia	Mariai	03/13/2026
Gregorio Castillo	La Loma Bonita Super Mercado	Gregorio Castillo	03/13/2026

Name	Name of Business	Signature	Date
Melvi Mata	Mata Construction. LLC	Melvi Mata	03/13/2026
Marcos Navos Navos	MarcoVNN Construction. LLC	Marco Navos	03/13/2026
Ana C Rivera	Lions Construction. LLC	Ana Rivera	03/13/2026
Pilar Rivera	The Cosmetology Bar	Pilar Rivera	03/13/2026
Victor Martinez	Restaurant Los Cactus	Victor Martinez	03/13/2026
Lilia Salcedo Centeno	Lilia's Cleaning. LLC	Lilia Salcedo	03/13/2026
Luis Cuzco	Dona Mary LLP	Luis Cuzco	03/13/2026
Luis Sacta	El Tequila Mexican Bar and Grill	Luis Sacta	03/13/2026
Lucy Zaruma Cazho	LZhousecleaning.LLC	Lucy Zaruma	03/13/2026
Angel Jara	La Colonia Restaurant	Angel Jara	03/13/2026
Jesenia Bustamante	El Trebol Express	Jesenia Bustamante	03/13/2026
Pedro Maldonado	Su Casa Loans	Pedro Maldonado	03/13/2026
Carla Maldonado	Los Roques Counseling	Carla Maldonado	03/13/2026
Claudio G Carriel Maldonado	Carriel Exterior. LLC	Claudio Carriel	03/13/2026
Israel Garcia	Real Estate Agent at NRG	IG	03/13/2026
Angel Mora	Milagros Beauty Salon	Angel Mora	03/13/2026
Walter Rivera	HBL.INC	Walter R.	03/13/2026
Soraya N Kanou	AP Construction. LLC	Soraya NK	03/13/2026
Lorena Genis	Lorena's Cleaning Services. LLC	Lorena Genis	03/13/2026
Hilda Teran	Llakta Store	Hilda Teran	03/13/2026

MN House Ways & Means Committee

In response to the metro-wide Operation Surge, we understand that the Minnesota House Ways and Means Committee is requesting impact letters from affected business owners to inform proposed business relief options being considered in the current legislative session. In light of recent events impacting our community, neighbors and I have organized to brainstorm how to keep Chanhassen businesses open and ensure that employees feel safe going to work. We also want residents to feel safe patronizing local businesses. In short, we want to support our community and minimize any unnecessary disruption to everyday life. We have been particularly concerned about our community's restaurants, which seem to be hit the hardest. Our neighbors own these businesses. Our kids work part-time in these businesses. **Over the last two months, I have spoken with nearly 30 Chanhassen-based restaurant managers who have shared their frustration with recent disruptions:**

- employees are afraid to come to work
- residents are not going out to eat as often, prompting a few restaurants to close for a couple of days a week, and some restaurants are operating at limited capacity, only offering drive through services
- business owners are requesting greater support to ensure safety of both employees and patrons, as some keep their doors locked and patrons call a number to be let in during working hours

As this feedback reflects, small businesses are facing steep declines in customer activity, unstable revenue, and difficulty maintaining payroll, inventory, rent, and utilities. These challenges underscore what organizations across the state have reported: significant revenue losses, workforce disruptions, and a broader contraction that no single business or commercial corridor can withstand alone.

Chanhassen's strength comes from the partnership between local businesses, residents, and community leaders. To do our part, we have compiled and distributed information on business relief funds and mutual aid resources to support our Chanhassen business community, as we continue to navigate current events and their impact on residents and the local economy.

Key Funding Resources:

- [Small Business Relief Funds](#): Many relief funds have emerged to support businesses impacted by the federal immigration enforcement surge. This guide will be continually updated to include all relief funding and note which funds are open for applications.
- The Open for Tomorrow Fund Small Business Fund provides rapid stabilization grants in Minnesota to businesses experiencing sudden economic disruption that threatens local jobs, worker income, or the continuity of essential neighborhood services.
- [Salt Cure Restaurant Recovery Fund](#) is administered via The Minneapolis Foundation. This \$500,000 fund distributed grants of \$2,500–\$10,000 in its first grant round February 16-23, 2026. SCRRF will prioritize small, independent restaurants in the seven-county Twin Cities metro area of Minnesota. Funds are provided to help cover hardships impacting ongoing restaurant operations. Applications are reviewed on a rolling, weekly basis.

We are committed to our community and recognize that current conditions require partnership from state leadership to prevent further loss. We appreciate your leadership, your time, and your commitment to Minnesota's small-business community. At this time, we respectfully request your support for a statewide stabilization plan including:

1. Small business relief grants
2. Short-term liquidity support through existing DEED programs

3. Emergency rent and utility assistance for impacted corridors
4. A statewide economic impact assessment

Chanhassen business owners have invested years of work into building businesses that provide essential services, gathering spaces, and neighborhood employment. We need to work together to support a thriving business environment while continuing to ensure Chanhassen remains a safe and prosperous place to live, work, and visit. We hope these efforts help secure the economic relief needed to support recovery in our business community, as we continue to navigate current events and their impact on residents and the local economy. We are prepared to provide additional information or testimony as needed.

All the best,
Kathryn E. Nelson

March 13, 2026

Chair Cedrick Frazier
Chair Paul Torkelson
Members of the Ways & Means Committee

Dear Representatives and Members of the Committee,

I write as a small property owner in Minnesota who provides rental housing to working families in our community. We are currently experiencing unexpected vacancies in rental units as some tenants have left due to fear or sudden loss of income.

These situations create serious financial challenges for small landlords who must still pay mortgages, property taxes, insurance, and maintenance costs even when rent is not being paid. Many small property owners depend on this income to maintain their properties and support their families.

I respectfully ask state leaders to consider the economic impact these circumstances are having on housing providers and local communities, and to explore support measures that help stabilize housing and small property owners during this time.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to Minnesota communities.

Respectfully,
NESTOR MOROCHO
Small Property Owner
Minneapolis, Minnesota