

RE: Support for HF 991 in the Ways and Means Committee

April 19, 2021

Chair Moran and members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

During the pandemic, big corporations and the super rich have seen their wealth skyrocket while working people have struggled to make ends meet. In Minnesota we care for each other, and we now have an opportunity to take real steps towards ensuring a state where people of different races and from different places can access the care, housing, and services that they need.

For too long we've been told the lie that says what's good for corporations is good for people and that wealth will trickle down. We know better than this.

The Minnesota we want and deserve requires a tax system where all of us contribute and the wealthiest individuals and corporations pay their fair share. The gap between current state revenues and the investments needed is large and growing. New revenue is required for the state to fully respond to the pandemic and hardship caused by the economic downturn, protect existing community and public services that Minnesotans count on, and build the equitable recovery that Minnesotans deserve. We want to highlight some of the provisions we support that will achieve those goals:

- Adding a new, fifth tier individual income tax of 11.15 percent on income over \$1 million for married joint filers; \$750,000 for heads of household; and \$500,000 for unmarried taxpayers;
- Taxing corporate income currently sheltered abroad;
- Expanding the Working Family Credit, which will benefit low-income workers, especially those with children:
- Investments in the Workforce and Affordable Homeownership Development Program, which will provide loans in addition to grants for workforce and affordable homeownership projects.

As we plan for our future after COVID, we have a chance to make Minnesota healthier, safer and stronger for all of us. Joining together to rewrite the rules, we can make sure that corporations who have done well in Minnesota do right by Minnesota.

We urge you to take this opportunity to continue building an equitable Minnesota we're proud to call home with the affordable healthcare, housing, and community services our families need. All of us should contribute and the wealthiest should pay their fair share in taxes.

Sincerely,

Kenza Hadj-Moussa Public Affairs Director