



May 5, 2021

Chair Paul Marquart
House Tax Committee
597 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Carla Nelson
Senate Tax Committee
3235 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Marquart, Chair Nelson, and Members of the Tax Conference Committee,

On behalf of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, I write today in support of inclusion of the Tourism Improvement District (TID) authorizing legislation included in the House Omnibus Tax Bill. This legislation authorizes local communities to establish a Tourism Improvement District in partnership with local lodging businesses and tourism organizations through a local ordinance process. The tourism and hospitality industry has been one of the hardest hit industries during the COVID-19 pandemic and will likely be one of the last to recover. The Minneapolis Regional Chamber has been a committed partner to the statewide hospitality industry, and this legislation is another crucial element to our economic recovery.

This is a self-funded initiative that would not require any government dollars and would generate significant revenue to aid in expediting the recovery of this economic driving industry. Industry forecasts indicate that recovery is expected to take 3-4 years and this legislation can help expedite that process.

Tourism Improvement Districts are authorized and operating in 18 states and nearly 200 communities across the country. South Dakota has had this legislation for 12 years, and Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan are all currently considering this legislation. We need to be using every tool in our arsenal to support the state's tourism and hospitality industry, and we ask for your support of this legislation so that communities across Minnesota can accelerate this much needed recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Weinhagen'.

Jonathan Weinhagen
President & CEO
Minneapolis Regional Chamber