



DEDICATED TO A STRONG GREATER MINNESOTA

May 1, 2025

Chair Baker, Chair Pinto, and Members of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC), an organization of more than 115 cities located outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area—to comment on one proposed reduction contained in **HF 2440/SF 1832**, the Omnibus Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance bill.

Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure (BDPI) Grant Program

We recognize that in these difficult times, not all priorities can be funded. That being said, we are disappointed in seeing a proposed reduction to BDPI funding in excess of 50%, or \$2.5 million per biennium.

- Minnesota's Greater Minnesota BDPI Grant Program is arguably one of the most cost-effective state investments in economic and community development efforts all across state.
- The BDPI program provides grants to cities in Greater Minnesota of up to 50% of the capital costs for the public infrastructure necessary to expand economic growth, retain or create jobs, or increase the tax base (§ 116J.431).
- Since 2010, BDPI has delivered nearly 170 grants to cities and counties totaling over \$75 million, creating over 5,000 new jobs and retaining another 10,000.
- In many cases, the BDPI program has been the crucial program that made the difference between making a project come together, or lose the opportunity altogether.
- Reducing the appropriation to this historically successful program ignores the projects in the queue, and sends a discouraging message to communities all across Greater Minnesota.

The BDPI program has relied on this small general fund appropriation to DEED to keep the program operating between uncertain general obligation bond appropriations in sporadic capital investment bills.

We encourage this committee to find the dollars to help Greater Minnesota communities continue to grow their economies when opportunities arise.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bradley Peterson
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities