

Senate Committee on Jobs and Economic Growth Finance and Policy
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4123

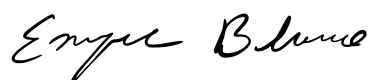
Chair Pratt and members of the committee,

The Latino Economic Development Center writes in support of SF4253.

We are an association of Latino entrepreneurs and leaders in the state of Minnesota. For nearly two decades, the Latino Economic Development center (LEDC) has been assisting, supporting, financing, and launching hundreds of successful micro-entrepreneurs in the Twin Cities Metro, and Greater Minnesota. LEDC offers a continuum of services for Latinos seeking economic opportunity: from employment training for those not quite ready to start planning their own business, to business development for those ready to develop a strong business plan, to lending for those needing capital to launch or grow their small business. In Greater Minnesota, we help Latino farmers both start and grow their farm businesses. Our four core programs serve approximately 600-800 Latino and other BIPOC entrepreneurs annually. We provide a complete agricultural business program. Over these nearly two decades, the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) has worked with hundreds of Latino and immigrant entrepreneurs and small businesses owners throughout Minnesota to create new opportunities and markets.

We support this legislation to help in closing the state's opportunity gaps for Minnesotans of color. This is an important step to create a sustainable platform to train individuals and fill the needs of our workforce crisis. This funding would allow us to expand our reach and train more workers than ever before. We would be able to invest in more farmers, entrepreneurs, and our programs to multiply our programs already in place.

Thank you for your consideration of SF4253.



Director of Operations
LEDC