

January 10, 2023

Chair Dibble  
Minnesota Senate Transportation Committee  
3107 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

**We support S.F 27 (Senator Mohamed).**

Minnesota businesses value the contributions of immigrants to our state. Their roles as workers, entrepreneurs and consumers are important to the development and growth of our economy and our communities.

We support S.F 27 for workforce and public safety reasons. Our state is experiencing acute workforce shortages in almost every industry and every community. Unemployment rates remain at historic lows, the labor participation rate is 6<sup>th</sup> highest nationally, and the pattern of more residents leaving than staying in Minnesota further exacerbates our workforce shortage. Immigrant workers are a key to this challenge.

Minnesota employers rely on immigrant workers to serve their customers and produce the variety of products and services we use and enjoy. To do this safely, workers should complete drivers' license training, testing and licensing requirements, including securing insurance. We believe this will make roads safer for all drivers and enhance the work and community contributions of immigrant workers.

We collectively support federal immigration reform. As we wait for solutions on the federal level, the state also has a role in dealing with state specific issues on this matter. This legislation addresses a state-based concern and a state employment and public safety need.

Thank you for your consideration.



Laura Bordelon  
MN Chamber of Commerce



Tamara Nelsen  
AgriGrowth



Jill Resler  
MN Pork Producers



Lucas Sjostrom  
MN Milk Producers Association