



March 11, 2024

Senator Bobby Joe Champion, Chair
Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for SF 3223 – Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarships Pilot

Dear Chair Champion,

On behalf of Valleyfair, I would like to take the opportunity to express our support for SF 3223 to create a Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarships Pilot for Scott County.

This pilot program will help in bridging the skills gap in Scott County while addressing the needs of our local job market. In addition, through the Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce and Shakopee Chamber Foundation's continued efforts to help the underserved populations in our community, this program will help alleviate barriers, including financial burdens associated with post-secondary education costs, while also securing current and future career pathways for individuals to succeed.

The Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce and Shakopee Chamber Foundation are also working with area post-secondary institutions to bring tailored training programs into Scott County. This program would be impactful in helping to eliminate transportation costs for underserved individuals due to there not being a post-secondary institution located directly within Scott County.

The Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce and Shakopee Chamber Foundation, through its community partnerships with organizations such as Valleyfair, will allow this program, if appropriated, to have a significant positive impact on both our underserved communities, local workforce, and businesses throughout Scott County. It can also become a model for other communities in the State of Minnesota to model their initiatives after.

We strongly urge your support for SF 3223 and appreciate the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Raul Rehnborg", is located below the "Sincerely," text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Raul Rehnborg
Vice President & General Manager
Valleyfair Family Amusement Park