

April 5, 2024

The Honorable Ann Rest  
Chair, Senate Tax Committee  
Minnesota Senate

**Re: SF 5110 - Hennepin County local sales and use tax authority modification**

Dear Senator Rest and Committee Members:

I am pleased to write in support of SF 5110 to modify the Hennepin County 0.125 percent sales tax to invest in the County's health care facilities and maintain the ballpark for the next generation.

The County is the principal public agency responsible for providing health care to our low- and moderate-income residents and provides services to tens of thousands of Minneapolis residents. Within our city, the County owns significant physical facilities including Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC), Northpoint Health and Wellness Center, Red Door Clinic, Mental Health Center, Behavioral and Chemical Health facility at 1800 Chicago, and many neighborhood clinics.

The County's health care facilities are important to the vibrancy and economy of Minneapolis. For HCMC, downtown's largest employer, the County has identified more than \$1.5 billion in upgrades over the next 15 years to reimagine the eight-block main campus, including the funding and planning of a 500-bed in-patient hospital tower to replace existing, aging in-patient facilities campus-wide. This will drive significant investment in the area and improve the downtown economy and livability.

Target Field is an important destination for downtown Minneapolis, drawing people from all over the state and country. The ballpark hosts at least 81 Major League Baseball games on an annual basis, and major concerts, trade shows, business seminars, and community events throughout the year. It has welcomed more than 30 million people to major events since opening in 2010, generating increased hotel occupancy rates, activity in restaurants and bars before and after events, and strengthening our national profile.

Improving the County's health facilities and maintaining the ballpark with an extension of the Twins lease for the next generation is a win-win for the city of Minneapolis. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Jacob Frey  
Mayor