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Representative Aisha Gomez, Chair, House Tax Committee  
Representative Dave Lislegard, Chair, House Property Tax Division  
Senator Ann Rest, Chair, Senate Tax Committee  
Senator Grant Hauschild  
Minnesota State Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 15, 2024

Dear Chair Gomez, Chair Rest, Chair Lislegard and Senator Hauschild:

I am writing today in support of House File 5198, Rep. Lislegard's Property Tax Division Report, and Senate File 5435 (Hauschild).

I appreciate Rep. Lislegard and Sen. Hauschild including funding for Minnesota Discovery Center their bills. This funding will allow us to upgrade our state-owned facility with compliant, adequate, efficient and inclusive facilities, while addressing critical preservation, capacity, and accessibility infrastructure that currently threatens our historical collections.

The Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) is a 501c(3) nonprofit in charge of operating and maintaining state-owned capital assets originally constructed in the 1970's and 1980's by the Governor Rudy Perpich Administration. MDC's current capital budget is not enough to address the more than \$40 million in critical infrastructure needs across our 660-acre campus. In this bonding proposal we have identified the most urgent capital needs to address them before an emergency arises. Currently, historical collections are at high risk due to inadequate, outdated, and failing archival infrastructure. Something as simple as a false fire alarm could destroy millions of irreplaceable records and artifacts at any time. MDC strongly believes that state-owned facilities, such as our historical archives, should be uphold to the highest standards, as they belong to the residents of Minnesota.

MDC is the largest state-owned records repository outside of St. Paul and one of the largest museums and cultural complexes in northern Minnesota and is one of Chisholm's largest employers with a \$3.89 million annual economic impact to local and surrounding communities.

We appreciate this money being reinvested into our local communities on the Iron Range and appreciate Rep. Lislegard and Sen. Hauschild for introducing this legislation.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Char Conger", with a checkmark at the end.

Char Conger  
Executive Director  
CC: Iron Range Legislative Delegation Members