



Education and Leadership for a Lifetime

2100 Freeway Boulevard, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota 55430-1735 | (763) 560-2262, FAX (763) 569-0499 | www.mshsl.org

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Sandy Pappas
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2113
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pappas:

The Minnesota State High School League is writing in support of legislative initiatives proposing upgrades to the Xcel Energy Center and Roy Wilkins Auditorium.

These facilities have served as a long-time partner of the Minnesota State High School League. State Championships for girls hockey, boys hockey, gymnastics, wrestling and volleyball have all enjoyed a home in these facilities. League tournaments are once-in-a-lifetime experiences for our student athletes, classmates, parents, schools and communities. These facilities play a major role in that experience. Families and friends come from all over Minnesota to cheer on their athletes and teams. Tournament time in St. Paul is a unique and special occasion for all involved. This experience is enhanced by the quality of the facilities available to our participants.

These two publicly owned facilities are vital to our tournaments. Rejuvenating these buildings will provide the opportunity to continue making lasting memories for our current and future student athletes. In addition to our tournaments, improvements to these facilities will continue to drive local business activity, drawing over two million visitors to our events in Saint Paul each year, generating vitality and economic impact.

It is important that these improvements be accompanied by supports that allow schools and the League to mitigate the ongoing costs of using the facilities. Cost management is always an essential component of the partnership between the state and local interests when funding these facilities.

The Minnesota State High School League strongly supports legislative funding for these statewide assets. The League is always available to provide additional information regarding state tournaments.

Sincerely,

Don Peschel
President, MSHSL Board of Directors

Erich Martens
MSHSL Executive Director