

March 25, 2025

Senator Sandra Pappas, Chair
2113 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Xcel Energy Center, Saint Paul RiverCentre, and Roy Wilkins Auditorium Bonding Request

Dear Chair Pappas and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the St. Paul Area Chamber's 1,900+ members and affiliates, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed bonding request for improvements to the Xcel Energy Center, Saint Paul RiverCentre, and the Roy Wilkins Auditorium. These venues are economic engines that drive growth, foster community, and enhance the vibrancy of downtown St. Paul.

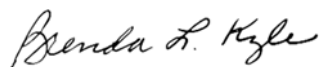
The Xcel Energy Center, Saint Paul RiverCentre, and the Roy Wilkins Auditorium have long been a cornerstone of downtown St. Paul. The arena complex attracts around 2 million visitors annually through nearly 400 events, generating over \$400 million each year in economic impact. The proposed renovations are critical to ensure the facilities continue to meet modern standards and enhance the guest experience, while driving further economic growth and increasing the number of visitors downtown.

The renovations are estimated to increase the local spending generated by an additional \$110 million each year. They are integral to St. Paul's growth and recovery, especially as the city continues to navigate challenges associated with the pandemic and evolving economic conditions. These improvements will create jobs, attract new events, and help revitalize downtown St. Paul.

We urge the committee to support funding for this project and ensure the Xcel Energy Center, Saint Paul RiverCentre, and the Roy Wilkins Auditorium continue to thrive as vital assets for years to come.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



B Kyle
President and CEO
St. Paul Area Chamber

