

UNITE HERE

Minnesota State Council of UNITE HERE Unions

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The Honorable Chair Sandy Pappas and Ranking Member Housley
House Capital Investment Committee
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 21, 2025

Dear Pappas, Ranking Member Housley, and members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee:

On behalf of our 7,000 members working in the hotel, restaurant, and entertainment industries, UNITE HERE Local #17 supports the proposal to renovate the Xcel Energy Center, the RiverCentre, and the Roy Wilkins Auditorium. The much-needed improvements of the entire arena complex will benefit the more than 800 members we have working at the Xcel Energy Center and RiverCentre.

We are proud of our diverse union—many of our members come from immigrant communities, speaking more than 17 languages. Our union is helping turn traditionally low-wage jobs into good, family sustaining, middle class jobs.

This year, our union was proud to partner with Morrissey Hospitality, the St. Paul RiverCentre, and St. Paul College to launch our Culinary Arts Training Program which will train the next generation of culinary workers. We urge the Legislature to continue to invest in the hospitality and entertainment industries and support our members and the future.

We thank the committee for taking the time to hear this important proposal and we encourage you to support the renovation funding package.

Sincerely,



Wade Luneburg
Political Director
UNITE HERE Local #17