

401 N Robert Street, Suite 150
St. Paul, MN 55101

March 13, 2025

Senator Matt Klein, Chair
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
2105 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for SF 1182 - Authorizing Statewide Social Districts

Dear Chair Klein and Committee Members:

On behalf of the St. Paul Area Chamber's 1,900+ members and affiliates, I write in support of SF 1182, which would empower cities to establish Social Districts without requiring individual legislative approval. This legislation presents an opportunity to enhance economic vitality, support local businesses, and activate public spaces across Minnesota.

Social districts drive economic growth and support local businesses. They transform public spaces into hubs of activity, driving foot traffic and customer engagement for local businesses. Businesses throughout Minnesota continue to navigate post-COVID challenges, and social districts provide a cost-effective tool to drive economic activity. These districts will foster a more engaging atmosphere that will strengthen local economies.

Social districts improve public safety and community well-being. Concentrating nightlife and public events in designated areas allows for more efficient law enforcement, better crowd management, and quicker emergency response. Enhancements to infrastructure, such as lighting and parking, further contribute to a safer and more accessible environment for residents and visitors. These districts also support responsible alcohol consumption, creating a more enjoyable experience for everyone.

Social districts increase cultural interaction and community engagement. Immigrant-owned businesses often face barriers in reaching new customers and maintaining competitiveness. Social districts offer an opportunity to overcome these challenges by fostering collaboration among business owners, improving customer experience, and encouraging cultural interaction. They provide an opportunity to showcase diverse foods, arts, and traditions that celebrate cultural diversity and create a more inclusive and welcoming atmosphere.

Social districts revitalize commercial corridors, making them more vibrant and engaging. This revitalization attracts new investments, supports local jobs, and creates opportunities for small businesses to thrive. Increased foot traffic and business activity lead to higher property values,

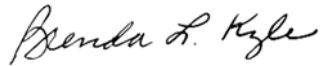


benefiting cities, businesses, and residents. Transforming underutilized areas into dynamic destinations creates long-term economic growth and strengthens local economies.

We urge the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee to support SF 1182. Empowering local governments to create social districts will allow cities across the state to build a more vibrant, inclusive, and economically resilient future.

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

