



Mar 19, 2025

Subject: Support for Senate File 1182 - Statewide Social Districts

Dear Senator Putnam,

On behalf of the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation, I am writing to express our support for Senate File 1182, which aims to establish a statewide framework for social districts in Minnesota. As a regional economic development organization in Central MN, we believe this legislation holds significant potential to benefit our communities, and those across the state.

Specifically, we believe that SF1182 will:

- **Promote Economic Growth:** By enabling the creation of social districts, this legislation can stimulate local economies by increasing foot traffic to businesses, particularly in downtown and entertainment areas. This can lead to increased revenue for restaurants, retailers, and other local establishments.
- **Enhance Community Vibrancy:** Social districts can create more engaging and dynamic public spaces, fostering a sense of community and encouraging residents and visitors to explore and enjoy their surroundings.
- **Support Local Control:** SF1182 appropriately grants local governments the authority to establish and manage social districts, allowing communities to tailor implementation to their specific needs and priorities.
- **Increase tourism:** Social districts can increase the attraction of a location, leading to increased tourism.

Enabling social districts would create vibrant, walkable entertainment areas where patrons can enjoy alcoholic beverages within designated zones, fostering increased foot traffic and economic activity. For greater St. Cloud communities, this would enhance downtown revitalization efforts, support local businesses, and attract more visitors, strengthening the region's economic and social vitality.

We understand the importance of responsible alcohol consumption and believe that SF1182 provides a framework for safe and well-managed social districts. We are confident that local governments will implement these districts responsibly, prioritizing public safety.

We urge you to support Senate File 1182 and help bring these benefits to communities throughout Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

NeTia Bauman, CEO & President
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