



March 20, 2025

The Honorable Matt Klein, Chair
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection
95 University Avenue W
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Gary Dahms, Ranking Minority Member
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Hospitality Minnesota Support for SF 2511 – Omnibus Liquor Provisions

Dear Chair Klein, Ranking Minority Member Dahms and Members of the Committee:

Hospitality Minnesota represents hospitality businesses across the state of Minnesota, including restaurants and food service, hotels and lodging, resorts and campgrounds, and more. We advocate for policies that promote and support Minnesota's hospitality and tourism industries.

Hospitality Minnesota strongly supports SF 2511, a bill that would authorize social districts statewide.

Social districts are an increasingly popular policy local governments are interested in exploring. These districts would bring much-needed visitors and resident traffic to business areas in local units of government across the state. Following the COVID shutdowns, businesses, restaurants, and consumers are looking for ways to reinvest in their communities and bounce back from detrimental economic policies. Social districts are a way local governments can create these opportunities, opening their communities for food trucks, local beer vendors, and concerts from local artists.

The proven success of the program in Anoka has had a ripple effect of excitement on local governments across the state. The inclusion of this policy in SF 2511 would give local governments the authority to implement a social district within their jurisdiction. The bill gives clear parameters for cities to follow on boundaries of the social district, how containers need to be labeled and created, requirements on-sale licensees need to follow, and reporting requirements to the legislature – which include any public safety concerns that arise during the operation of the social district.

We respectfully request your support for SF 2511 to help foster economic activity and hospitality patronage across the state. We believe this effort is important to the success of our local tourism economies, hospitality businesses, and communities in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angie Whitcomb', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Angie Whitcomb
President & CEO
Hospitality Minnesota