

March 19, 2025

Subject: Support for Senate File 1182 - Statewide Social Districts

Dear Senator Putnam

I am writing to express my support for Senate File 1182, which aims to establish a statewide framework for social districts in Minnesota. As a business-owner in East St. Cloud, I believe this legislation holds significant potential to benefit communities 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.

In September, we hold a festival called Festi-Fall. This festival is a family-friendly event. There are multiple activities for people of all ages. We have a non-profit beer garden and distillery with a cash bar on the patio. This is where our live music is hosted. For a minor, or parents with a minor, this excludes them from the biggest entertainment draw of our event. Precautions are in place to eliminate a liquor sale to a minor.

We understand the importance of responsible alcohol consumption and believe that SF1182 provides a framework for safe and well-managed social districts. We *trust* our city government to 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,
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