

Minnesota Senate,

On behalf of Visit Greater St. Cloud, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate File 1182, which would establish a statewide framework for social districts. We believe this legislation offers significant potential to enhance the vibrancy and economic vitality of communities across Minnesota, including the Greater St. Cloud region.

Social districts, by allowing for the responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages within designated areas, can create a more dynamic and engaging atmosphere for both residents and visitors. This legislation presents an opportunity to:

- **Boost Local Businesses:** Social districts can drive increased foot traffic to restaurants, bars, retail shops, and other establishments, particularly in downtown and entertainment districts. This increased activity can lead to significant economic benefits, supporting job creation and local tax revenue.
- **Enhance Tourism:** Social districts can make communities more attractive destinations for tourists, offering unique and enjoyable experiences. By creating a more vibrant and walkable environment, we can encourage visitors to explore and spend more time in our local businesses.
- **Foster Community Development:** Social districts can contribute to the revitalization of underutilized areas, creating safer and more welcoming public spaces. This can enhance community pride and encourage greater participation in local events and activities.
- **Provide Local Control:** The proposed legislation appropriately places the decision-making authority for establishing and managing social districts with local governments. This allows communities to tailor the implementation to their specific needs and priorities, ensuring responsible and effective management.

Visit Greater St. Cloud recognizes the importance of responsible alcohol consumption and believes that Senate File 1182 provides a framework for safe and well-managed social districts. We are confident that local governments will utilize this authority responsibly, prioritizing public safety and community well-being.

We urge you to support Senate File 1182 and help bring these benefits to communities throughout Minnesota. We believe this legislation will be a valuable tool for promoting economic growth, enhancing tourism, and fostering vibrant communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Thompson".

Rachel Thompson

Executive Director | Visit Greater St. Cloud

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