



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

March 10, 2025

Via E-Mail Delivery

Senator FOUNG Hawj, Chair
Environment, Climate, and Legacy
Minnesota State Senate
3231 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Justin Eichorn, Lead Republican
Environment, Climate, and Legacy
Minnesota State Senate
2235 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hawj and Lead Eichorn:

On behalf of the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of SF1965, legislation introduced by Senator Susan Pha.

In 2024, by legislation introduced by Senator Hawj, \$500,000 in Legacy funding was appropriated to MHC in FY2025 to administer a competitive grant program to create high-quality academic materials to support students from communities that are largely oral-based such as Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Oromo cultures. SF1965 would create a similar competitive grant program in FY2026 and FY2027.

The inaugural cultural studies grant line is scheduled to close at 6:00 p.m. on April 7. The two MHC informational sessions were well attended with 84 organizations participating. We anticipate that up to ten organizations will request a one-on-one meeting. Our grant applicant pools always include submissions from organizations that opted not to attend our informational sessions.

Considering historical data, we conservatively anticipate that we will have at least 35–45 applicants applying for the current grant funding. We also estimate that the applicants will likely request in total a minimum of \$3,000,000 in grant requests during this grant cycle.

As you know, MHC develops professional development for educators and regularly convenes Educator Institutes over the summer at its Event Center. For example, MHC developed and continues to distribute Why Treaties Matter materials, today widely recognized and used in many classrooms across Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration of SF1965.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lindsey
CEO

C: Senator Susan Pha
Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee