

# Minnesota State Senate

Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee  
Tuesday, March 25, 2025  
3:00 PM, 1150 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

## Minutes

**Present:** Senator FOUNG Hawj - **Chair**, Senator Jennifer A. McEwen - **Vice Chair**, Senator Steve Green, Senator Grant Hauschild, Senator John A. Hoffman, Senator Ann M. Johnson Stewart, Senator Mary K. Kunesch, Senator Andrew R. Lang, Senator Nathan Wesenberg

**Absent:** Senator Justin D. Eichorn - **Ranking Minority Member**

Senator FOUNG Hawj called the meeting to order at 3:05pm. Quorum is present.

### Call To Order

### MN Indian Affairs Council Legacy Update

The following individuals testified on MN Indian Affairs Council Legacy Update:

- o Shannon Geshick, Executive Director, MIAC
- o Ethan Neerdahls, Executive Director, Dakota Iapi Okhodakichiye
- o David Sutherland, Culture Language Arts Network (CLAN), Minneapolis American Indian Center

### **S.F. 1973: Senator Rest: Sweet Potato Comfort Pie organization appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.1973:

- o Rose McGee, Founder, Sweet Potato Comfort Pie
- o Niila Herbert, Board Chair, Sweet Potato Comfort Pie

Senator Hawj moved that S.F. 1973, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

### **S.F. 2398: Senator Champion: Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts appropriation.**

Senator Hoffman offers the A-1 Amendment. Passed by voice vote.

The following individuals testified on S.F.2398:

- o Ammy Casserly Ellis, Executive Director, Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts

Senator Hoffman moved that S.F. 2398, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

### **S.F. 2424: Senator Champion: Capri appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.2424:

- o Kevin D. West Interim Director, Capri Theater

Senator Hawj moved that S.F. 2424, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

**S.F. 2573: Senator Gustafson: Public educational radio stations appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.2573:

- o Joel Glaser, President & CEO, Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations (AMPERS)

Senator Hawj moved that S.F. 2573, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

**S.F. 2790: Senator Pha: Urban Debate League appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.2790:

- o Amy Cram Helwich, Executive Director, MN Urban Debate League, Program of Augsburg University
- o Jamie Maiers, Teacher Debate Coach, MNUDL
- o Sai Yang, Johnson High School Debate Student (REMOTE)

Senator Hawj moved that S.F. 2790, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

**S.F. 2812: Senator Pratt: Minnesota's thoroughbred racing culture support appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.2812:

- o Justin Revak, President, MN Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association

Senator Hawj moved that S.F. 2812, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

**S.F. 92: Senator Hoffman: Taste of Minnesota appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.0092:

- o Former Senator and Sgt. Major Jerry Newton
- o Jojo Kilimanjaro, Chef and Artist
- o Adam Duininck, CEO & President, Mpls Downtown Council

Senator Hoffman moved that S.F. 92, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

**S.F. 2834: Senator McEwen: Lake Superior Zoological Society appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.2834:

Haley Hedstrom,

Senator Hawj moved that S.F. 2834, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

**S.F. 2865: Senator Hawj: Dedicated funding website maintenance appropriation.**

Senator McEwen moved that S.F. 2865, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

**S.F. 2590: Senator Hawj: United Hmong Family appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.2590:

- o Maycee Vang, Program Manager, the United Hmong Family

Senator McEwen moved that S.F. 2590, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

**S.F. 2543: Senator Hawj: Southeast Asian Music Festival appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.2543:

- o Apichart Klaysingha, Executive Director, Siengkane Lao MN

Senator Hoffman moved that S.F. 2543, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

**S.F. 2785: Senator Hawj: Asian Economic Development Association outdoor programs for youth appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.2785:

- o Va-Megn Thoj, Executive Director, AEDA

Senator Hoffman moved that S.F. 2785, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

**S.F. 2656: Senator Hawj: Tou Ger Xiong mural and statue appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.2656:

- o Andy Rodriguez, Parks & Recreations Director, City of St. Paul
- o Mo Chang, Owner, Mo's Tropical Market
- o Moslais Xiong, Sister of Tou Ger Xiong, Teacher

Senator McEwen moved that S.F. 2656, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

**S.F. 1763: Senator Hawj: Lake Phalen winter festival appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.1763:

- o Andy Rodriguez, Parks & Recreations Director, City of St. Paul
- o Lisa Jacobson, President & CEO, St. Paul Heritage Foundation

Senator McEwen moved that S.F. 1763, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION ADOPTED.**

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**The meeting was adjourned at 5:02pm**

  
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**Senator Fong Hawj, Chair**

  
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**Maikao Vue, Legislative Assistant**