

**STRONG
OWENS**



John J Owens
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Edina, MN 55343
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April 19, 2025

Senator Marty
Finance Committee Chair
Finance Committee Members

Subject: SF 2424

Dear Senator Marty and fellow Committee Members,

I am writing to ask for your support of SF 2424 authored by Senator Bobby Champion for the appropriation of \$250,000 for the Capri in North Minneapolis.

As you probably know, the Capri is a part of the Plymouth Youth Center in North Minneapolis. I have known of and supported PYC for close to 30 years! It has been a beacon of hope, encouragement, and education for the North Side youth all these years. And the Capri, an extension of the work of PYC.

The Capri is a valued venue for music, theater, and community gatherings. I believe it has become an economic engine for the area and its very vitality has added to the vibrancy and health of the North side community.

Thank you for your consideration and all you do for our communities!

Sincerely,


John Owens

**STRONG
OWENS**



Patricia Strong
6201 Spruce Rd
Edina, MN 55343
612.805.7539
Tennisne_1@comcast.net

April 19, 2025

Senator John Marty
Finance Committee Chair
Finance Committee Members

Re: SF 2424

Dear Senator Marty,

I am writing to urge you to support the \$250,000 appropriation for the Capris in North Minneapolis, as authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion. My family and I have been supporters of the Capri Theater/Plymouth Youth Center for over 20 years, introduced through our church and friends who are also supporters. Now, I am an enthusiastic Board Member.

The Capri is an integral part of not only North Minneapolis, but of greater Minneapolis. The Capri has a 98 - year presence in Minneapolis and attracts people from all over the state and country to its' events. As but one small example, at a recent "movie night" to view the documentary "Luther" (Vandross), the audience was filled with local jazz "greats". The vibrance and engagement of the audience during the post-film discussion was memorable. This is but one small example of the education and community building for both youth and families that happens at the Capri on a daily basis.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important appropriation.

Sincerely,


Patricia Strong

STEVEN POTACH & JUDITH HORN
4301 York Avenue North
Robbinsdale, Minnesota 55422

April 18, 2025

Senator John Marty
Chair, Minnesota Senate Finance Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3235
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Marty, and Finance Committee Members:

RE: Senate File 2424

We have lived in the North Minneapolis/Robbinsdale area for the last 38 years, and are writing to ask for your support of SF 2424 authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion, which would provide a \$250,000 appropriation for the Capri Theatre in North Minneapolis.

Since we first began attending events there 15 years ago, the Capri Theatre has become the leading cultural hub and beacon in our North Minneapolis area. It has brought many diverse and interesting cultural offerings to the underserved Northside community, including music, film and theatre. Some examples of this are regular performances by members of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra at the Capri, and also the screenings of notable and culturally significant films throughout the year.

The Capri Legends jazz concert series has become well-known in the Twin Cities and beyond, attracting outside visitors to North Minneapolis and its businesses. The beautiful Capri Theatre facility also offers a performance venue for students from the nearby PCYC Arts & Technology High School to further their education. Since PCYC was established in 1954, it has demonstrated a continuous commitment to improving the lives of North Minneapolis children, youth and their families, including its successful fundraising to renovate and expand the Capri Theatre into a first-rate venue a few years ago. A number of PCYC graduates have gone on to become successful musical performers themselves, and others have been offered scholarships by colleges and universities.

In our opinion, \$250,000 of taxpayer money invested in the Capri Theater under SF 2424 would be a solid investment in the future of the North Minneapolis community. We respectfully ask you and the other Senate Finance Committee members to support this important bill.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Steven Potach and Judith Horn in black ink.

April 24, 2025

*Dear Senator John Marty, Finance Committee Chair, and Finance Committee Members:
Re: SF 2424*

My name is Woody Love and I'm writing to ask for your support of the \$250,000 appropriation for the Capri in North Minneapolis, authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion.

*15 years ago my wife and I went to a Legend's concert at the Capri Theater.
We were unaware that such a venue rich in history and talent existed.*

*11 years ago, I attended a community choir event that featured the Capri Glee Choir.
During that event, I marveled at the variety of community members from throughout the
Twin Cities area.*

The sense of joy and shared community was inescapable.

*In the time that followed, my wife and I began attending other productions and programs.
Many of our friends were delighted to become aware of the Capri Theater's ability to blend the
arts with community.*

*Many commented that the experience gave them a new, fresh perspective of the North Side.
As an attendee, I moved to volunteering at events and became a donor.*

Many of my friends that I invited have taken the same path.

*About 18 months ago, I had the honor of being asked to serve as a board member.
Since that time, my excitement about this organization has grown exponentially as I have
witnessed the success of this non-profit in it's mission to meet the challenges and needs of the
North Side.*

The commute to the Capri is over 30 minutes for me or the people I have helped introduce to it.

The Capri is not out our back door, but it is part of our neighborhood.

I ask for your support for this beacon of the arts and community on the North Side.

*Sincerely,
Woody Love*

5390 Barrington Way

Shorewood, MN 55331

April 20, 2025

Dear Senator John Marty, Finance Committee Chair, and Finance Committee Members:
Re: SF 2424

I'm writing to ask for your support of the \$250,000 appropriation for the Capri in North Minneapolis, authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion.

I have been a resident of North Minneapolis for 29 years and my first connection with the Capri in 2004 when the theater rented out space to the Northside Arts Collective whereas there are essentially little to no places for public art groups to gather on the Northside. That availability allowed our small arts non-profit to flourish!

The Capri is so important to me and fellow Northsiders as it provides a stable space for community to gather and express themselves! I've been to plays, concerts, films, art exhibitions and a farewell gather for one of our legendary storyteller Miss Niama Richmond. In other parts of the city, there are multiple community hubs – the Northside has the Capri. It's our place.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Most sincerely,
Jeanne Fish
3435 James Avenue North
Minneapolis

April 21, 2025

Dear Senator John Marty, Finance Committee Chair, and Finance Committee Members:
Re: SF 2424

My name is Ginger Commodore and I'm writing to ask for your support of the \$250,000 appropriation for the Capri in North Minneapolis, authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion.

1. I'm an active participant in the programs, entertainment and social activities provided by the Capri for the past 10-15 years. I first became involved with the Capri when I participated in a "Legend" series and performed two musical shows at the theater.
2. I have been a Northside community member for over 40 years. My husband and I have raised 2 successful children in this community, and we all have participated in events presented at the Capri. I volunteer there, my husband provides sound engineering services there, and we have all performed on the stage there. Through the years, we have watched it grow into something, a place we are proud to say represents the melting-pot culture of the Northside, which includes a strong African American base. The Capri Theater supports our community, and we need it to continue to push boundaries of inclusion, so we all have access to the opportunities afforded in other parts of the city. We're strong, educated, talented and committed to sustaining the presence of the Capri in North Minneapolis.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We Capri-ciate it very much.

Sincerely,
Ginger Commodore
1801 Irving Avenue N
Minneapolis, MN 55411

April 20, 2025

Senator John Marty
Senate Finance Committee Chair
Minnesota State Senate

Dear Senator Marty and Finance Committee Members,

My name is Elaine Love and I am writing to you today to ask for your support for the \$250,000 appropriation for the Capri in North Minneapolis, authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion, SF 2424.

I have been a part of the Capri Theater community for close to 15 years. We attended our first Legends @ the Capri performance, fell in love with the music and immediately subscribed. What kept us coming back, and bringing friends with us each time, was the energy and the welcoming feel, as well as the enthusiasm of fellow attendees and the storied history of this theater. When the Capri Glee choir started with about 15 of us in 2015, I knew I had found another home! During the twice yearly choir seasons over the years, we have grown to over 100 singers from all corners: the Northside, greater Minnesota, St. Paul and all over Minnesota, including the western suburbs where I live. I am also an eager volunteer for various events throughout the year.

The Capri Theater is the heart of the Northside and beats strongly. I love the history, the music, the programming for students, Camp Capri, First Thursday films, Legends, Glee. I love the commitment of the staff to the mission and to the community. I love it because PCYC and the Capri are making a difference for youth, families, students and ME! Folks from all over the state gather there because we love what is happening and we feel joy and hope there. No small things, joy and hope!

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. This appropriation would support the continuation of the amazing things being done @ the Capri.

With much Capri-ciation,

Elaine Love
5390 Barrington Way
Shorewood, MN 55331

April 21, 2025

*Dear Senator John Marty, Finance Committee Chair, and Finance Committee Members:
Re: SF 2424*

My name is Edie French, educator, media producer, and theater goer. I'm writing to ask for your support of the \$250,000 appropriation for the Capri Theater in North Minneapolis, authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion.

For the last 10 years, I have been an enthusiastic fan and supporter of the Capri Theater, attending exquisite concerts, culturally themed films with thoughtful and intelligent post show discussions, and watching as they inspired, nurtured, and modeled professionalism for the young people attending their partner school, PCYC.

Often referred to as "The Gem of the Northside", the Capri stands as a beacon of hope and excellence - celebrating, showcasing and accentuating the talents of the best of Minnesota's great artists. They also have the hardest working staff of any theater in town, making the most efficient and strategic use of limited resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We Capri-ciate it very much.

*Sincerely,
Edie French
2355 Harding Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418*

April 20, 2025

Dear Senator John Marty, Finance Committee Chair, and Finance
Committee Members:
Re: SF 2424

My name is Dr. Claudia Kittock and I'm writing to ask for your support
of the \$250,000 appropriation for the Capri in North Minneapolis,
authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion.

I have worked at and with the Capri for 9 years as a leader in the arts
community. The Capri is open and welcoming and does everything
possible to keep arts alive in the Northside community. We need the
Capri. Having a place to sing and make music is invaluable, both for
young people and adults. Please help them continue the work they do
so well.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We Capri-ciate it very
much.

Sincerely,
Dr. Claudia Kittock
1240 South 2nd St., Unit 1132
Minneapolis, Mn. 55415
cjkittock@gmail.com

Dear Senator John Marty, Finance Committee Chair and Finance Committee Members:
RE: SF 2424

My name is Mark "Chico" Perez, and I'm writing to ask for your support of the \$250,000 appropriation for the Capri in North Minneapolis, authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion.

I have had the privilege of working at the Camp Capri Summer Youth Program as a drum instructor for approximately 7 years. Having been born in the North Minneapolis area in 1948, I felt it was important for me to give back to the community with my musical talents to a theater that I enjoyed as a youth. In doing so, I feel I'm helping with the educational progress of the arts that the Capri has to offer to the community.

The Capri is an extremely valuable cultural and community hub of North Minneapolis with a 98-year history as such. It is both an educational center and a community-building value to the area's youth and their families.

This program provides the Northside youth with opportunities in a safe environment that would not be available to them without the Capri.

I thank you so much for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Mark "Chico" Perez
2544 South Heights Drive NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

April 21, 2025

*Dear Senator John Marty, Finance Committee Chair, and Finance Committee Members:
Re: SF 2424*

My name is Barbara Draper and I'm writing to ask for your support of the \$250,000 appropriation for the Capri in North Minneapolis, authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion.

I live in the Northeast side of Minneapolis and have attended several Capri performances. One that I wish you could have attended included the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and a local high school group of singers. First the orchestra performed, then the choir, then all together, with soloist after soloist coming up to the mic to perform. You should have seen the warm, admiring faces on the orchestra members and the looks of success on the high school soloists!

That is just the kind of activity that changes people and a community. And I could go even further and say the world. Young people feeling valued, people from different backgrounds and cultures coming together to marvel at what can be made together. Funding for the Capri is critical to building up the northside community. Please lead on getting SF2424 passed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Sincerely,
Barbara Draper
2608 W. Armour Terrace
St. Anthony, MN 55418*