



March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

I write today in support of fully funding the Youth Intervention Program (YIP) grant.

Urban Boatbuilders is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota, dedicated to empowering youth through hands-on woodworking and boatbuilding. By engaging young people in the craft of building wooden boats, the organization teaches valuable technical skills, teamwork, and leadership while fostering personal growth and career readiness. Through apprenticeship programs and school partnerships, Urban Boatbuilders provides a supportive environment where youth develop confidence, resilience, and a strong work ethic, preparing them for future success.

Youth Intervention Program funding has enabled Urban Boatbuilders to expand the number of young people served through the apprenticeship program each year. Through YIP funding, 16 additional youth have been able to participate in the intensive paid employment training program. As a result of the program, 99% of graduates have been placed in education and training programs or directly into a well-paying job.

I strongly support the full funding of the Youth Intervention Program grant to ensure that young people across Minnesota have the support and opportunities to learn, grow, and blossom into capable, successful adults and citizens of Minnesota. Thank you for your support

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc Hosmer".

Marc Hosmer
Executive Director