



February 24, 2025

Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave West
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF1521 (Pha)

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee,

The Scott County Community Development Agency (CDA) and our Center for Entrepreneurship (CFE) are pleased to express our support for SF1521, which includes funding for the Small Business Assistance Partnership Program at the level provided for the FY24-25 biennium.

The Scott County CDA has been privileged to partner with DEED to serve as a vital resource for entrepreneurs, providing essential programs and services that foster organic job growth in Minnesota. While we are just one of the 41 organizations receiving funding, the impact of the Small Business Assistance Partnership Program has been significant in our community.

During the FY24-25 biennium, we have supported over 80 entrepreneurs through 12 educational programs and two ten-week Entrepreneur Cohorts. We have also established a small innovation lab equipped with 3D printers, awarded micro-grants to several businesses, and provided one-on-one mentorship. As a result of these efforts, our CFE members have reported the creation of 12 full-time jobs with average wages exceeding \$75,000, the incorporation of three new businesses, and the successful acquisition of \$2,891,000 in external funding. Additionally, our members have been featured in Business & Finance, advanced to the semi-finals of the MN Cup, and expanded into brick-and-mortar locations.

These outcomes represent a strong return on investment for the \$282,775 grant. We appreciate your commitment to entrepreneurship and economic development. Continued investment in this program not only fosters job growth but also strengthens Minnesota's tax base and expands the availability of goods and services in our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jo Foust'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Jo' and last name 'Foust' clearly legible.

Jo Foust

Business & Community Development Director
Scott County CDA