



March 20, 2025

Re: Letter of Support for SF2342 and the Minnesota Youth Program

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

On behalf of our collective businesses and organizations, we are writing in support of SF2342 (Senator Mohamed). SF2342 would make a crucial investment in Minnesota's future through the Minnesota Youth Program (MYP), a workforce program that supports at-risk young people in getting ready for the workplace through paid work experience and outreach-to-schools programs.

As employers, access to a strong, well-trained workforce is crucial to our success. Recently, there has been a need for increased onboarding and support for entry level workers which has increased costs for businesses. This program is a foundational investment in supporting our communities' youth and helping employers by decreasing the amount of onboarding needed as we hire young people. By investing in youth now, we will see the benefits in our workforce for years to come.

We thank the Legislature for the increased funding this biennium. Your decision to invest in the Minnesota Youth Program made it possible for local workforce areas to enroll nearly double the annual number of youth in either paid work experience programs or outreach-to-schools programs across the state. SF2342, as it is to be amended, would make the investment from this biennium ongoing at a time when Minnesota has only 6 jobseekers for every 10 job openings and employers are in need of job-ready workers.

Without SF2342, our community workforce providers will be forced to serve many fewer youth at a time when we continue to need well-trained, ready-to-work employees. We know that the state's financial forecast will require difficult choices for you this year and we thank you for your work. And, we believe that investing in our youth has an excellent return on investment for our state and our business community. **We ask you to please support the Minnesota Youth Program and SF2342.**

Thank you,

Kayla Dietzmann, Director of Administration, **SCS Interiors**

Kim Parmeter, President & CEO, **Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce**

Matt Baumgartner, President, **Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce**

Shari Marshik, Executive Director, & Riki McManus, Chief Production Officer, **Upper Midwest Film Office**

Jenny Paulsrud, Vice President of HR & Organizational Development, **Preferred Credit, Inc. (PCI)**

Jodi Gertken, Director of State Government Affairs and Community Relations, **CentraCare**

Ali Bilden Camps, Senior Consultant, **Northspan**

Purva Watten, President and CEO, **Little Falls Area Chamber and Tourism**

Melinda J. Fietek, Manager, **Larson Abstract Company**

Sharon Brixius, **Pierz Floral**

James R Whaley, President, **DJ Products**

John Perlich, Vice President of Government Affairs, **St. Paul Area Chamber**

Yao Yaj, Executive Director, **Minnesota Hmong Chamber of Commerce**

Les Engel, CEO/Metallurgical Engineer, **Engel Metallurgical Ltd.**

Les Engel, President, **Central Manufacturer's Association**

Cathy Lamers, CHRO, **Red Wing Shoes**

Lane Powell, New Business Development Manager/Data Protection Officer, **Harmony Enterprises, Inc.**

Craig Ryan, President, **Winegar, Inc.**

Brent Christopherson, Director of Talent Acquisition & Community Partnerships, **Taylor Corporation**

Amanda Anez, Board Chair, **Key City Bike**

Joe Huber, CFO, **The Dork Den, Inc.**