



April 7, 2025

Re: SF1832 Senate Jobs Omnibus Bill

Dear Chair Champion, Lead Draheim and members of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee,

On behalf of the Greater Minnesota Partnership (GMNP), an organization focused on expanding economic prosperity in Greater Minnesota, I wanted to share our support for SF1832, the Senate Jobs Omnibus bill.

The Greater Minnesota Partnership advocates for economic development programs that support business development and expansion, job creation, and economic growth throughout Greater Minnesota. There are several key tools that support Greater Minnesota prosperity funded in the DEED budget, including the Business Development Public Infrastructure program, the Child Care Economic Development grant program, the Minnesota Investment Fund, and the Job Creation Fund. These programs help communities attract and retain businesses who pay family-sustaining wages, support small businesses and expand child care availability. Without adequate funding for these programs, Minnesota will lose out on both supporting our current business growth and attracting new businesses to our state. I applaud that SF1832 has continued to fund base funding for these programs in this bill.

The only item funded in the Governor's budget recommendations that was not included in SF1832 and should be considered, is appropriating additional funding for the Drive for Five initiative. As the Committee continues to work toward a final Omnibus bill, I would encourage you to consider appropriating ongoing funding for that program. Minnesota continues to have a workforce shortage, which is particularly acute in Greater Minnesota communities, and this competitive program focused on workforce training around high-demand jobs in key sectors is an opportunity to address that workforce shortage strategically.

Greater Minnesota communities are making investments in their economic future, but they need the state's support of key programs that can help their existing businesses grow, support the next generation of entrepreneurs and ensure that workers can find accessible and enriching child care in their community. I applaud your ongoing funding of those key programs and thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on SF1832.

Sincerely,

Darielle Dannen, Executive Director
Greater Minnesota Partnership