

TO: Chair Lee, House Capital Investment Committee
Chair Pappas, Senate Capital Investment Committee

FROM: Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM)

RE: Capital Investment Committee Omnibus Bill

DATE: April 29, 2024

Chair Lee and Chair Pappas,

EDAM is a statewide association of over 500 economic development leaders in the public and private sectors – in urban and rural areas – from all corners of the state. We provide training and public policy advocacy for our industry and appreciate your work and commitment to economic development in Minnesota.

We write to you today in support of a number of key provisions in your Capital Investment Committee Omnibus Bills. First, we appreciate the funding for the Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Program and the Transportation Economic Development Infrastructure Program. These key programs are administered by the Department of Employment and Economic Development and both are utilized and valued by EDAM members across the state.

\$2 million in general obligation bond funding for each of these programs is a wise use of state resources and will allow communities across Minnesota to address infrastructure needs to spur additional economic growth. These programs have proven track records and the need for additional funding is great. These resources will be able to be immediately deployed to have a meaningful impact on communities across the state at a time when infrastructure costs continue to rise.

We also thank you for your inclusion of \$8 million in general obligation funds for the Port Development Assistance Program. EDAM was among the signatories of a letter of support for that program this Session and are pleased to see funding included in your bill. Port infrastructure is utilized by numerous key industries across the state and keeping our ports in effective and efficient working order helps stimulate and strengthen economic development in every corner of the state.

EDAM thanks you for including funding for these vital state programs in your omnibus bills.

Sincerely,



Christy Lewis

2024 President, Economic Development Association of Minnesota