

March 19th, 2025

The Honorable Fong Hawj
Chair of the Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Minnesota Senate
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hawj and Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee members,

I am proud to write this letter in strong support of Taste of Minnesota, now entering its third year in the streets of Minneapolis. As a city, we have faced extraordinary challenges over the past few years, and this festival has played a pivotal role in our recovery — economically, culturally, and socially. It has not only helped revitalize downtown Minneapolis, but has also proven to be a powerful bridge between law enforcement and our community, fostering trust, togetherness, and a renewed sense of civic pride.

This festival is free and open to all, making it a true celebration of our culture, heritage, and who we are as Minnesotans. Since its inception 42 years ago, Taste of Minnesota has embodied our state's rich culinary traditions, diverse arts scene, and vibrant music community. It's become a cultural institution that brings together tens of thousands of people to experience the very best of what Minneapolis and Minnesota have to offer.

Beyond its cultural significance, the economic impact of Taste of Minnesota is undeniable. Hundreds of small businesses, local artists, and musicians rely on this festival to reach new audiences and sustain their livelihoods. The festival directly supports artists, musicians, craft makers, food vendors, and entrepreneurs, while also driving substantial tourism and foot traffic to downtown businesses. In the past two years alone, it has proven to be a critical catalyst in rebuilding our downtown economy, centered on the hard work and entrepreneurship of Minnesotans.

Equally important, Taste of Minnesota has shown that Minneapolis is safe and thriving. Since its return, the festival has taken place without a single crime incident, reinforcing the fact that our downtown is a welcoming place for families, visitors, and residents alike. The 2025 Taste of Minnesota is absolutely vital in building on this momentum. The event has worked, reintroducing people to downtown Minneapolis, and we must ensure it continues to do so.

I urge you to recognize the profound impact of Taste of Minnesota. It is not just as a festival; it's a force for economic recovery, public safety, and cultural celebration. Your support in securing funding for this event will ensure that it continues to uplift our artists, showcase our small businesses, and unite our community.

Thank you for your commitment to strengthening arts, culture, and community across our state.

Yours truly,



Mayor Jacob Frey

CC:

Majority Leader Erin Murphy
Senator Bobby Joe Champion
Senator John Hoffman
Senator Ann Rest

March 19th, 2025

The Honorable Joe McDonald
Co-Chair of the Legacy Finance Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Samantha Vang
Co-Chair of the Legacy Finance Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair McDonald, Chair Vang, and House Legacy Finance Committee members,

I am proud to write this letter in strong support of Taste of Minnesota, now entering its third year in the streets of Minneapolis. As a city, we have faced extraordinary challenges over the past few years, and this festival has played a pivotal role in our recovery — economically, culturally, and socially. It has not only helped revitalize downtown Minneapolis, but has also proven to be a powerful bridge between law enforcement and our community, fostering trust, togetherness, and a renewed sense of civic pride.

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Yours truly,



Mayor Jacob Frey

CC:

Speaker Lisa Demuth
Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman
Representative María Isa Pérez-Vega