March 20, 2025

Representative Mary Franson, Co-Chair
Representative Fue Lee, Co-Chair
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul RiverCentre, and Roy Wilkins Auditorium Bonding Request

Dear Co-Chairs Franson and Lee and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the St. Paul Area Chamber's 1,900+ members and affiliates, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed bonding request for improvements to the Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul RiverCentre, and the Roy Wilkins Auditorium. These venues are economic engines that drive growth, foster community, and enhance the vibrancy of downtown St. Paul.
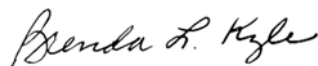
The Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul RiverCentre, and the Roy Wilkins Auditorium have long been a cornerstone of downtown St. Paul. The arena complex attracts around 2 million visitors annually through nearly 400 events, generating nearly $500 million each year in economic impact. The proposed renovations are critical to ensure the facilities continue to meet modern standards and enhance the guest experience, while driving further economic growth and increasing the number of visitors downtown.

The renovations are estimated to increase the local spending generated by an additional $110 million each year, raising the total economic impact of the arena complex to $600 million annually. They are integral to St. Paul's growth and recovery, especially as the city continues to navigate challenges associated with the pandemic and evolving economic conditions. These improvements will create jobs, attract new events, and help revitalize downtown St. Paul.

We urge the committee to approve funding for this project and ensure the Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul RiverCentre, and the Roy Wilkins Auditorium continue to thrive as a vital asset for years to come.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brenda L. Kyle

B Kyle
President and CEO
St. Paul Area Chamber