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Office Telephone: (218) 299-5022 / Fax: (218) 299-5195

May 4th, 2022

The Honorable Mohamud Noor
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Eric Pratt
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg.
Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Noor, Chair Pratt, and Members of the Senate File 4091 Conference Committee,

On behalf of Clay County and its constituents, Clay County Commissioners write today to urge an amendment of Senate File 4091 to increase eligibility for business owners in border communities such as Clay County.

As currently written in the House bill, the Small Business Recovery Grant Program, and the Main Street COVID-19 Relief Grant Program currently established in law, excludes many business owners in the Clay County region and other border communities due to the Minnesota residency requirement. According to the bill, eligible participants must “be at least 50 percent owned by a resident of Minnesota;” while the Minnesota Main Street COVID Relief Grant Program requires applicants to be “at least 50% owned by one or more residents(s) of Minnesota.”

As you may know, many small business owners on the Minnesota side of our metro reside across the river in North Dakota, this is true for many border community businesses. Excluding these small business owners from the opportunity to participate in the proposed grant would put our region at an economic disadvantage from our neighboring communities. We hope the language of this bill could be amended to adjust the eligibility requirements to include Minnesota business owners who reside in a contiguous county of a bordering state.

Thank you for your dedication to the state of Minnesota and your consideration of this issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Commissioner Jenny Mongeau,
Clay County Chair – District 3

CC: Senator Kent Eken (DFL-Audobon)
Representative Heather Keeler (DFL-Moorhead)
Representative Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth)

Clay County Courthouse
807 11th Street North, PO Box 280
Moorhead, MN 56561-0280
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