



Diverse Radio for Minnesota's Communities

May 7, 2021

Chair Michael Nelson
585 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Nelson,

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for adjusting the State Government Finance budget in FY23 to allocate the \$125,000 needed to get the Ampers stations back to a funding level they were at in FY16. As you may recall, to accommodate for two new stations in FY16, the Legislature increased our allocation in the FY16-FY17 biennium. But, because the Legislators at the time front-loaded the funds, the funds did not carry through to future years. As a result, each station has had to deal with a decrease in their community service and equipment grants. The stations rely heavily on those funds to serve their diverse communities.

Some have suggested that the stations utilize Legacy funds to compensate for the decrease in community service and equipment funding. Legally, that is not an option. Legacy funds must be used to supplement and not supplant funding. While we are truly grateful for and appreciate the Legacy funding, and we do some great programming with those funds, the Legacy money cannot be used to offset the decrease in funding of their community service and equipment grants.

While we were hoping for an increase of \$250,000 for the biennium, we understand that's not possible. And, we sincerely appreciate that you were able to add \$125,000 to our FY23 allocation. We also understand that the Senate did not include the \$125,000 in their version of our bill. We hope that in conference committee you will be able to convince your colleagues in the Senate that this is the year to return the Ampers stations to the funding they were receiving on a per station basis prior to FY16. I am attaching a couple of graphs that clearly show the decrease that the stations have had to absorb.

I know that when it comes to the State Government Finance budget that \$125,000 may not seem like much, but, it makes a very big difference to the small diverse community radio stations that we serve. Thank you very much for your continued support, and, for advocating on our behalf in conference committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joel A. Glaser'.

Joel A. Glaser
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment