



March 22, 2021

Representative Paul Marquart, Chair
House Taxes Committee
597 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear Chair Marquart and House Taxes Committee members:

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated racial and economic disparities that existed before the pandemic. Essential workers and communities of color have borne the brunt of the health and economic impacts of this crisis. The recession has been unequal; we see those at the top increasing their wealth while Minnesotans who were already struggling are being left further behind.

While Minnesota’s current financial situation may be improving, the state budget has been underfunded for over 20 years. Understaffed classrooms, crumbling infrastructure, and inaccessible healthcare can’t be addressed with one-time money. To resolve the structural imbalance between Minnesotans’ needs and ongoing revenue, we support proposals to raise revenue from the wealthiest Minnesotans and profitable corporations.

We support Representative Her’s HF1335, which creates a 5th tier income tax rate of 12.45% on individual income over a quarter of a million dollars a year and, for married couples filing jointly, income over half a million dollars a year.

Workers have suffered and sacrificed the most during this pandemic while the wealthiest and big corporations have gotten richer. Those who have prospered during these difficult times should do their part to help us not just recover but rebuild and pay their fair share in taxes to fund Minnesotans’ needs.

Sincerely,

Melissa Hysing
Legislative Director

