



May 13, 2022

Chair Paul Marquart
House Tax Committee
597 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Carla Nelson
Senate Tax Committee
3235 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Marquart, Chair Nelson and Members of the Tax Conference Committee,

On behalf of Visit Saint Paul, I urge your support of the Tourism Improvement District (TID) enabling legislation included in the House Omnibus Tax Bill. This legislation authorizes local governments to create a "Tourism Improvement District (TID)" through a local ordinance process. The tourism and hospitality industry is one of the hardest hit industries during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will likely be one of the last to recover. This legislation is crucial to the economic recovery of this important industry in Minnesota.

Tourism improvement districts have been established by almost 200 cities in 19 states across the country. TID legislation recently passed in Massachusetts, Louisiana, Virginia, and Utah. The states of Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana have pending TID legislation in 2022. This initiative would generate significant revenue to aid in the economic recovery of this industry, at no cost to the State.

The activities that any Tourism Improvement District would support must be focused on marketing, promotion, and other activities to benefit the lodging businesses directly. These activities would be focused on increasing occupancy at hotels and lodging businesses across the state resulting in putting people back to work, supporting local restaurants and bars, supporting tourist attractions, and increase local and state tax revenues.

Again, thank you for your consideration of the Tourism Improvement District enabling legislation. We ask that this proposal be included in a final tax bill this session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Mattson".

Terry Mattson
President & CEO
Visit Saint Paul | RiverCentre