



GMNP Lawmaker Outreach Talking Points

Housing Omnibus Bills: H.F. 2445/S.F.2298

Jobs Omnibus Bills: H.F. 2440 (not released yet)/S.F. 1832

Thank legislators for the investments they have made in key economic development programs in the last couple of years. Tell one story about how those programs have supported economic development work.

From there, choose your own adventure(s):

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Attracting and retaining small and large employees in communities across the state is critical to the overall prosperity of Minnesota's residents. This work creates employment opportunities and spurs community vitality from Main Streets to Business Parks and everywhere in between.

Maintain funding levels for key programs:

Redevelopment Grant Program

- The Redevelopment Grant Program is a critical economic development tool. It helps communities with the costs of redeveloping blighted industrial, residential, or commercial sites and putting land back into productive use.
- The Senate has preserved the base funding for this program at \$4.492 million in the next biennium – which is critical as this program is in high demand and is slated to run out of funding this year, so this budgeted drop in funding will seriously constrain the number of projects the program can support.
- This program delivers a tremendous return on investment. Since the program's inception in 1993, it has leveraged almost \$4 billion in non-state investments, created over 12,000 new jobs and retained almost 19,000 jobs, and increased property taxes by over \$60 million.
- Thank Senators for preserving the base funding in S.F. 1832 and remind Representatives and Senators of this program's importance.

Minnesota Investment Fund – The Minnesota Investment Fund provides financing to help companies expand, add workers and retain high-quality jobs. The focus of this program is on industrial, manufacturing, and technology-related industries to increase the local and state tax base and improve economic vitality statewide.

- S.F. 1832 has preserved the base funding at \$24.74 million – Thank Senators for preserving the base funding in S.F. 1832 and remind Representatives and Senators of this program’s importance.

Job Creation Fund – The Job Creation Fund provides financial incentives to new and expanding businesses that meet certain job creation and capital investment targets. Companies deemed eligible to participate may receive up to \$1 million for creating or retaining high-paying jobs and for constructing or renovating facilities or making other property improvements. In some cases, companies may receive awards of up to \$2 million.

- The Senate has preserved the base funding at \$16 million – Thank Senators for preserving the base funding in S.F. 1832 and remind Representatives and Senators of this program’s importance.

Key Small Business Supports:

The **Small Business Assistance Partnerships Program** provides critical state supports toward the startup, growth, and success of Minnesota’s diverse entrepreneurs and small business owners through the delivery of high-quality free or low-cost professional business development and technical assistance services.

- S.F. 2298 funded the program at \$5.45 million – Thank Senators for preserving the base funding in S.F. 1832 and remind Representatives and Senators of this program’s importance.

SUPPORT – CHILDCARE

Access to affordable and accessible childcare is important to the stability and economic success of Minnesota children, parents, businesses, and communities.

Child Care Economic Development Grants – Implement solutions to reduce the childcare shortage in the state.

- S.F. 1832 preserved this program's funding at \$3 million, which will continue to work to close childcare shortages – Thank Senators for preserving the base funding in S.F. 1832 and remind Representatives and Senators of this program’s importance.

SUPPORT – HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Across Minnesota, communities struggle to attract workers because they are unable to find housing or housing is unaffordable. The lack of available and affordable housing limits the

growth and prosperity of Minnesota communities. EDAM supports efforts that will lead to the development of needed housing in communities across the state.

- **Economic Development & Housing Challenge** program funds the development of affordable permanent rental housing that supports economic development and redevelopment activities, job creation, or job preservation within a community or region by meeting locally identified housing needs.
 - H.F. 2445 provides a \$10 million increase in funding while S.F. 2298 funds this program at base (\$25.85 million) – Thank the House for the increased funding and remind Representatives and Senators why this program is important.
- **Greater Minnesota Housing Infrastructure Grants** program provides infrastructure support for municipalities to help them develop new workforce housing.
 - H.F. 2445 provides \$20 million for this program, while S.F. 2298 funds the program at \$2 million with \$500,000 in ongoing funding starting in FY28 – Thank Representatives and Senators for the increased funding and remind them why this program is important.
- **Greater Minnesota Workforce Housing Program** – This competitive funding program targets small to medium-sized cities, communities, or areas in Greater Minnesota with rental workforce housing needs. Funding is available to build market-rate residential rental properties in communities with proven job growth and demand for workforce rental housing.
 - H.F. 2445 provides a boost of \$10 million for this program while the Senate provides base funding (\$4 million) – Thank both the House and Senate for the increased funding and remind Representatives and Senators why this program is important.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure (BDPI) Grant Program** provides grants in Greater Minnesota that help cities pay for public infrastructure needed for private business growth.
- S.F. 1832 supports base funding for BDPI at \$4.574 million – Thank Senators for preserving the base funding in S.F. 1832 and remind Representatives and Senators of this program's importance.