



2018 Greater Minnesota Partnership Policy Positions

To improve the economic climate, the GMNP supports the following economic development positions in the 2018 legislative session:

1. **Workforce Housing**

The GMNP supports programs to address the critical workforce housing shortage in Greater Minnesota. This includes at least \$20 million in funding for workforce housing grant programs focused on increasing the supply of units in communities that can grow now. The GMNP supports workforce housing programs that have no income or population restrictions, and which are focused on economic development. The legislature should fund affordable or workforce housing programs at a level that accounts for the cost of prevailing wage regulations in housing construction, or should seek reforms to reduce those costs.

2. **Greater Minnesota Child Care**

The CGMC supports legislative initiatives to increase child care options in all corners of Greater Minnesota. This may include funding to help offset the cost of new or upgraded child care facilities, regulatory changes that remove barriers to entry for providers, training for providers, and other policies and programs that will increase the supply of both center-based and home-based childcare options.

3. **Greater MN Business Development Public Infrastructure (BDPI) Grant Program**

The GMNP supports at least \$ 20 million in bonding and an increase in the general fund appropriation for the BDPI grant program. It should remain a stand-alone program open to only Greater Minnesota without earmarks to specific geographic areas or for specific projects. GMNP also supports a general fund appropriation for BDPI.

4. **Broadband Expansion**

The GMNP supports at least \$50 million to be appropriated to the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant program. At least half of any appropriation should be available to those areas that lack access to service that meets the 2026 state speed goals. The GMNP opposes policies that limit how much grant dollars can be spent in these areas. The GMNP also opposes the challenge process, which gives large providers power to determine that a community shouldn't receive a grant.

5. **Transportation**

The GMNP supports a comprehensive approach for transportation, which includes \$600 million a year for 10 years for highway maintenance and expansion. This includes at least \$200 million for Corridors of Commerce. The GMNP also supports an additional \$50 million for city streets. The GMNP supports a comprehensive approach to transportation, including surplus general fund dollars and new dedicated state revenues.

6. **Water Quality Regulations**

As Minnesotans, we support and value our natural resources, including clean water. The GMNP supports requiring cost-benefit analysis of new or amended water quality regulations that impact our communities, before they are adopted; supports requiring independent scientific peer review of regulations that will impose excessive costs on communities; supports requiring site specific analysis when translating standards into permit requirements; and supports preventing the enforcement of unadopted rules.

7. **Bonding and Infrastructure in Greater Minnesota**

Bonding bills should focus on local roads and bridges, wastewater, and other infrastructure that grows local economies in Greater Minnesota. In addition, of projects identified as being located in the metro area or Greater Minnesota, at least 50% of all capital investment funding should be directed at Greater Minnesota.

8. **Greater Minnesota Job Training Incentive Program**

The GMNP supports the Job Training Incentive Program and any necessary updates to make it more responsive to the needs of Greater Minnesota employers. The program should have an ongoing base budget of at least \$4 million annually.

9. **Local Government Aid ("LGA")**

The GMNP supports restoring the LGA program to its 2002 funding level and annual increases in its appropriation thereafter. LGA helps Greater Minnesota businesses receive needed city services while restraining local property taxes.

10. **Minnesota Investment Fund, Job Creation Fund, Redevelopment Grant Program, and Demolition Loan Program**

The GMNP supports increased funding for both the Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF), the Job Creation Fund, the Redevelopment Grant Program, and the Demolition Loan Program. The GMNP supports any additional changes to provide a more balanced distribution of funding between the metro area and Greater Minnesota.