

March 6, 2008

Representative Alice Hausman
453 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Higher Education Bonding

Dear Representative Hausman:

The Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) and LifeScience Alley strongly urge the House of Representatives to support the bonding requests from the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

The availability of excellent research and educational institutions are critical to LifeScience Alley and MHTA's diverse membership. In order to address work force needs and research demands, infrastructure needs must be addressed at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU). It is essential that Minnesota produce world-class graduates to assist in the commercialization of innovations that drive our economy.

MHTA is Minnesota's largest technology trade association, representing more than 300 companies. LifeScience Alley represents a broad cross-section of the health care, medical technology and agricultural and industrial biosciences industry and includes over 570 member organizations. Together our member organizations employ over 430,000 people throughout the state.

The associations have reviewed the bonding requests of the University and MnSCU and fully support allocations for the following projects:

University of Minnesota

*Bell Museum of Natural History
Civil Engineering Addition
General Laboratory Renovations
Research and Outreach Centers
Science Teaching and Student Services Center
Systemwide Classroom Improvements*

As our state's premier research institution, it is imperative for the University and for the state to have state-of-the-art facilities to attract top researchers and promising graduate students.

These bonding requests will bring the University closer to meeting its goal to become a top three research university and should be viewed as investments in the health of Minnesota's economy. Our growth and progress has been uniquely tied to the research capabilities of the University of Minnesota—just look at Medtronic and MGI Pharma.

The University is the leading technology research and education institution in Minnesota with over 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students in the Institute of Technology alone. More than 4,000 companies have been founded by Institute of Technology alumni - 2,600 in Minnesota alone - with estimated annual revenues of \$45.9 billion.

MnSCU

Anoka Ramsey - Classroom Addition

Anoka Ramsey & North Hennepin - Bioscience/Health Design
Bemidji – Sattgast Science Building Addition & Renovation
Dakota County - Emerging Tech Lab Design
Inver Hills – Math & Technology Classroom Additions
Lake Superior - Health Science Center Addition
Mesabi Range - Industrial Tech Shop Space Addition & Renovation
Mesabi Range - Classroom Addition & Renovation
Metropolitan St. - Classroom Addition
Mankato - Trafton Science Center
Minneapolis - Workforce Program & Infrastructure Renovation Design
Northland - Classroom Addition
St. Cloud - Brown Hall Science Renovation
St. Paul - Transportation & Applied Technology Lab Renovation
North Hennepin - Business & Technology Additions & Renovation
Ridgewater - Technical Instruction Design & Construction
Southwest St.- Science Labs Renovations
Systemwide Classroom Renovations
Systemwide Science Lab Renovations
South Central - Classroom Renovation
Southwest - Science Lab Renovation Design
St. Cloud - Science & Engineering Lab Design
St. Cloud Tech – Health Building Design

MnSCU is a vital component in Minnesota's efforts to compete and be successful within a global economy. As the major provider of higher education in Minnesota, MnSCU must be able to respond to the workforce and economic development needs of the state. We believe these requests are responding to health care and high tech employer needs.

Here are a few key facts:

- MnSCU provided customized training to more than 140,000 people in 6,000 businesses annually. Examples include ADC, Honeywell, IBM, Mayo Clinic, Medtronic and 3M.
- MnSCU has important programs in nanotechnology, network security, automated production and composite materials engineering that are preparing skilled workers in high tech fields.
- Students can complete more than 200 educational programs and thousands of courses via Minnesota Online, the System's popular conduit to online education. This online system was the recipient of a 2006 Tekne Award for innovation, and in 2007 saw usage increase to 33,000 students, nearly 30% higher than the previous year.
- The system serves more students of color than any other state higher ed provider.

We cannot afford to fail in providing the infrastructure that allow our higher education systems to compete on a global level. This is an area where a lack of investment may initially appear to cause minimal damage, but quickly erodes to a point where we are unable to reclaim the lost ground, reputation and prestige that today allow us to compete in the world market.

Sincerely,



Kate Rubin
President, MHTA



Donald E Gerhardt
President and CEO, LifeScience Alley