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September 30, 2015

Mark Richie, President and CEO  
Minnesota World's Fair Bid Committee  
3009 34th Ave. S., Suite 1100  
Minneapolis, MN 55425

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

The City of Minneapolis enthusiastically supports the designation of Minnesota as the official site of 2023 Expo and looks forward to welcoming the world to our city. When the world visits Minneapolis, it will experience the way we embrace the outdoors during every season and witness the way we value infrastructure that encourages healthy behaviors.

*Minneapolis is a growing and vibrant world-class city with a flourishing economy and pristine environment, where all people are safe and healthy and have equitable opportunities for success and happiness. We are a city that has a goal to have our natural and built spaces work together and to protect our environment.*

-City vision, as adopted by the City Council March 26, 2014

The City and its private and public partners are planning and implementing policies and making investments to achieve that vision. We encourage our employees, residents and visitors to engage in activities that improve their health and well-being. For example, we're investing in parks and public spaces, expanding our pedestrian and bicycle paths and trails, and growing our public transit system. Our business sector is expanding, attracting and retaining employees in Minneapolis and the region. Our collective efforts are already showing results in the form of growth in our economy and population. That population growth includes residents from across the globe, bringing a rich diversity of cultures and customs to our city and region.

Minneapolis and the region would be a perfect place for 2023 Expo. The city has embraced 2023 Expo's theme of "Wellness and Well Being for All." We have a long tradition of establishing strong relationships with cities throughout the world through our Sister Cities program. Our colleges and universities have educated and been enriched by students from all corners of the globe. Many of our global students have remained in Minneapolis and the region to start companies or work for local firms.

We know how to host big events. In 2008, Minneapolis and St. Paul hosted a national political convention, attended by visitors from around the world. We're now preparing for two national sporting championships: The Super Bowl (football) and The Final Four (college basketball). In addition, the City of Minneapolis and Saint Paul as well as numerous other Minnesota cities have welcomed national and international visitors for conferences, concerts, theater productions and holidays in the state.

Please keep us informed of developments and how we can help the committee develop the bid for 2023 Expo. We've asked our intergovernmental relations staff to work with you as needed at the state and federal levels during the bid process.

Thank you for meeting with Minneapolis Mayor Hodges and the City Council. We look forward to welcoming the world to our city for 2023 Expo.

Sincerely,

Mayor Betsy Hodges  
City of Minneapolis

Council President Barbara Johnson  
City of Minneapolis