SAINT PAUL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 10, 2014

Councilmember Dave Thune
City of Saint Paul
310-B City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

VIA EMAIL

Re: 344 Summit Avenue (Zoning File No. 14-316-432)

Dear Councilmember Thune:

The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce (SPACC) writes to express its strong support for the proposed use of 344 Summit Avenue as a boutique hotel. Similar to the city's zoning committee and planning commission, which approved the proposed boutique hotel, we believe this project is good for Saint Paul.

SPACC supports this project for a number of reasons. First, we believe the boutique hotel is consistent with Saint Paul's comprehensive plan. Second, the boutique hotel would be far less intense of a land use than the property's prior use as a visual arts institution. This would provide a public safety benefit by minimizing traffic congestion in the public streets. Finally, we believe the proposed use would enhance the character of the existing neighborhood. For more information regarding our support, attached please find correspondence from SPACC to the city's zoning committee.

In summary, SPACC encourages the city council to uphold the planning commission's approval of this important project. We believe the proposed boutique hotel provides the city with a unique opportunity to expand its tax base through economic development premised on historic preservation.

Sincerely,

Matt Kramer
President

cc: Kathy Lantry, Council President, Saint Paul City Council
Dai Thao, Councilmember, Saint Paul City Council
Chris Tolbert, Councilmember, Saint Paul City Council
Russ Stark, Councilmember, Saint Paul City Council
Amy Brendmoen, Councilmember, Saint Paul City Council
Dan Bostrom, Councilmember, Saint Paul City Council