

**Debbie Larson
Vinland National Center
Loretto Mn 55357**

April 9, 2021

**The Honorable Tom Emmer
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Congressman Emmer:

I have worked for Vinland National Center for over the last nine years. Behind the best addiction treatment facilities are support staff. These people help individuals struggling with substance addiction begin the path toward lifelong recovery. Each one plays an essential role in the treatment process and beyond. I have seen firsthand how our employee's work effects help in the recovery of the clients we serve.

Vinland National Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing treatment for chemical dependency and cognitive disabilities, located in Independence, MN (Hennepin County). Vinland is the only provider in Minnesota that specializes in treating individuals with substance use disorder and brain injuries, serious and persistent mental illness, learning disabilities and other cognitive deficits.

\“Vinland National Center requests Community Project Funding for \$500,000 to enhance long term lifestyle infrastructure for patients.”

Vinland has continued to operate throughout the pandemic, but at a reduced census due to pandemic related restrictions, burdening our budget for capital improvements. Typically, Vinland serves 55 to 61 patients at a time, but, during the pandemic the census fell into the 20's, causing a huge budget shortfall. People struggling with mental health and substance use disorder have

increasingly relapsed over the last year, further increasing the demand for our services, making the timing for this investment critical.

For over the past 40 years Vinland has served Minnesotans from all over the state and has an extensive list of state, local and private sector advocates. I fully support this investment and your championship of this Community Project Funding request will help Minnesotans struggling with substance use disorder and brain injuries recover and transition back into our post-pandemic society.

Sincerely,

Debbie Larson

Accounting Manager/HR

Vinland National Center