



Minnesota Chamber boosts Hill Capital small-business effort

The Minnesota Chamber, through its Grow Minnesota! program, has made a financial investment in Hill Capital Corp. to support the growth of Minnesota small businesses. Hill Capital was founded in 2014 in honor of James J. Hill, the "Empire Builder," to invest in small businesses and support entrepreneurship.

The Minnesota Chamber played an important role in the development and creation of Hill Capital by sharing aggregate data collected from one-on-one Grow Minnesota! visits to Minnesota businesses. Hill Capital's new fund will provide growth capital to small businesses looking to expand. They will cooperate with community banks and other lenders in this process.

Kathi Schaff, director of Grow Minnesota! partnerships and business development, will serve on the corporation's inaugural Community Impact Board.

"Investing in Hill Capital is a natural fit for Grow Minnesota! and a continuation of our efforts to support small businesses," said Bill Blazar, Minnesota Chamber senior vice president of public affairs and business development. In 2009, the Pohlada Family Foundation pledged \$5 million toward grants and low-interest loans to help small businesses see their way through the economic downturn. Grow Minnesota! helped identify recipients of this assistance, establishing its role as a link to small business financing.

"We are excited to have the Minnesota Chamber Foundation as a shareholder," said Patrick Donohue, president and CEO of Hill Capital. "The Chamber's Grow Minnesota! initiative was paramount in helping us understand the needs of small businesses in the region. Very early on, the initiative's business retention data shaped our understanding of how Hill Capital could serve an important role in addressing unique small business needs from access to capital to demand for regional expertise. Our missions are very much aligned to promote the growth and success of our region's small businesses."

Grow Minnesota! operates in partnership with close to 70 local and regional chambers of commerce and their private-sector economic development organizations. Its primary focus is to retain Minnesota businesses and encourage them to expand here. Staff regularly schedules visits throughout the state. For more information on Grow Minnesota!, contact Kathi Schaff at kschaff@mnchamber.com.

This is not an offering or the solicitation of an offer to purchase shares of Hill Capital Corporation. Any such offer or solicitation will be made only to qualified investors only by means of a final offering memorandum and only in those jurisdictions where permitted by law. Further information about Hill Capital is available at www.HillCapitalCorp.com or calling (651) 452-8448.