

PETITION

For the last 38 years in Minnesota, the Lao Family Community of Minnesota (LFCM) has collaborated with other Hmong nonprofit organizations to host the Hmong New Year celebrations and the Hmong 4th of July Freedom Festival.

In 2012-2013, the Minnesota Attorney General Office terminated the right of LFCM to cohost these two community-supported cultural events because of financial mismanagement, leadership squabbles and lawsuits, inter-organizational conflicts, and community's distrust and complaints.

In 2013, *without telling the Hmong Community and those members who elected the board president of LFCM*, the board of LFCM then created the Lao Family Foundation (LFF) to take private ownership of the two cultural events for personal profit, with financial control being under a group of selected investors of the LFF who serve lifetime as "trustees". In this scheme, the board of directors of Lao Family Community (LFCM) also serves as the board of the Lao Family Foundation (LFF) in violation of fiduciary duties and good corporate governance.

The intentional turnover of the two community-supported cultural events into private gains *without community hearing, input, and consent* has bitterly angered the Hmong Community.

In November 2013, the MN Hmong community established the *Hmong Heritage Preservation Committee of Minnesota* (hereafter Committee) with the mission to preserve the Hmong New Year celebrations and July 4th Freedom Festival for the enjoyment and collective public interest of the Hmong people for these two celebrations truly represent our cherished cultural heritage and identity.

Therefore, I, the undersigned, being a MN taxpayer and a member of the Hmong Minnesotan community, duly support the mission of the Hmong Heritage Preservation Committee, and would like to urge your office, with full force and authority, to ask Lao Family Community of MN and Lao Family Foundation to immediately cease their private engagements in and desist from the pecuniary interest in the MN Hmong New Year celebrations and the MN July 4th Freedom Festival. Your expeditious action on this petition is for the shared interest and greater good of the Hmong people in the State of Minnesota. Thank you

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Gender: _____

Phone: _____

Age: _____

Signature

Date