



NORTHWEST

regional development commission

May 3, 2023

Honorable Rep. Frank Hornstein, Honorable Senator D. Scott Dibble
Honorable Rep. Brad Tabke, Honorable Senator Kelly L. Morrison
Honorable Rep. John Petersburg, Honorable Senator Jim Carlson
Honorable Rep. Erin Koegel, Honorable Senator Jennifer McEwen
Honorable Rep. Jeff Brand, Honorable Senator John Jasinski

RE: Support Senior Meals through Delivery Fee

Dear Members of the Transportation Omnibus Conference Committee:
Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging, a program of the Northwest Regional Development Commission and our partners in the statewide Senior Meals and Services Coalition urge you to adopt the House position on the Delivery Fee provision. We are encouraged that this provision would provide one percent of fees collected to support meal delivery for low-income and frail older adults. Currently, there is a significant shortage of funds for home-delivered meals for seniors. In 2022 more than 800 people were placed on wait lists. Those wait lists will grow as the older population continues to expand at an unprecedented rate. One in ten older adults in our state lives at or below the poverty level and their use of food shelves is high. In 2022, Minnesota seniors made 700,000 visits to food shelves, up more than 38% over the prior year. Providing sustainable funding for home meal delivery will help to address senior hunger present in our state. Home-delivered meals are a foundational service to help seniors stay at home for as long as possible. It is vitally important that this core service is available at sufficient service levels for all seniors in need. We ask you to pass the Transportation Omnibus bill with the Delivery Fee provision included.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Tim Finseth, Transportation coordinator, NWRDC

Heather Pender, Aging Program Director, DSAAA