



March 9, 2026

Joe Marble

Minnesota House of Representatives
House Transportation Committee

Kyle Baker

Minnesota House of Representatives
House Transportation Committee

Re: Opposition to HFxxxx (Koznick) – Transit Route Modernization Efficiency

Dear Mr. Marble and Mr. Baker,

On behalf of the **Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce**, I am writing to express our opposition to HFxxxx (Koznick), the proposed legislation related to transit route modernization and efficiency.

The Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce represents **360+ member businesses and the interests of more than 36,000 area employees in Eden Prairie and the surrounding region**. Reliable, accessible transportation is a critical component of our local economy and workforce mobility.

Our community is preparing for the launch of **SouthWest Light Rail Transit (LRT)**, scheduled to begin service in 2027. The SouthWest LRT represents one of the most significant public infrastructure investments in our region. Ensuring that riders can reliably reach employment centers from LRT stations through strong **last-mile transit connections** will be critical to maximizing the return on that investment.

Local transit providers such as **SouthWest Transit** play an important role in delivering flexible, community-focused service that connects riders to jobs, education, and essential services. Their ability to tailor routes and programs to the unique needs of our local workforce and business community has made them a valuable partner in supporting economic growth. SouthWest Transit has demonstrated the ability to quickly adapt routes and services based on local commuting patterns and employer needs—something that is especially important in a community like Eden Prairie with large employment campuses and regional job centers.

Specifically, programs such as **SouthWest Transit's Prime service** provide critical first- and last-mile transportation that help workers reliably get to and from their places of employment. Services like Prime help bridge the gap between regional transit hubs and business campuses, making it possible for employees to access jobs that may otherwise be difficult to reach. The loss of these types of locally tailored services would create real barriers for workers and employers alike.

Beyond workforce access, SouthWest Transit has also proven to be an exceptional **community partner**. Their collaboration with the Chamber and other community organizations has supported workforce initiatives, community programming, and regional connectivity that benefit both residents and businesses.

These partnerships reflect the value of locally responsive transit systems that are closely connected to the communities they serve.

Many of Eden Prairie's largest employers rely on dependable transit connections to support their workforce. Without effective last-mile transportation options linking transit stations to business campuses, employees may face increased barriers to accessing jobs, particularly as LRT service begins in 2027.

Eliminating opt-out transit systems and consolidating service exclusively under a single regional provider could limit the local responsiveness that has helped make transit effective in our area. Maintaining local transit options allows communities to complement regional infrastructure while ensuring services remain aligned with local commuting patterns, employment centers, and workforce needs.

Policies that reduce the effectiveness of workforce transportation can have direct consequences for employer recruitment, retention, and regional economic competitiveness. SouthWest Transit services play an important role not only for businesses but for the broader community, helping residents access jobs, education, and opportunities throughout the region.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to reconsider HFxxxx and preserve the ability for communities to maintain locally governed transit services that support both residents and employers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat MulQueeney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Pat MulQueeney, IOM
President
Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce