

Dear Chair Hornstein,

Thank you for including funding for the construction of the Northern Lights Express (NLX) inter-city passenger rail project between Duluth/Superior and Minneapolis/St. Paul as part of your omnibus Transportation Finance bill (H.F.2887).

NLX is a critical piece of infrastructure that will serve as a vital, efficient, sustainable connector between the Twin Cities metro area and northeastern Minnesota. The enhanced connectivity provided by NLX will allow Minnesotans to better access businesses, attractions, all while having a positive economic impact for communities along the line. Further, with significant federal investment available to the State of Minnesota, the timing for this project could not be better. We can build NLX and the federal government will pay for 80% of the project.

With many deserving projects seeking funding we sincerely appreciate your inclusion of this significant and shovel ready project in your bill. Thank you for what you do in service to Minnesota, and our country.

Respectfully, Shawn Stanich