

---

**Jesse Cook**  
(702) 600-1184  
jrcook394@gmail.com

---

HF 2887 | 3 May 2023

Thank you, members of the Conference Committee, for the opportunity to submit a written letter prior to this week's meetings.

Those who have been heavily invested in the legislation included in this omnibus package — from bill authors to the plethora of testifiers who have, for months, attended these committees — know that this is the culmination of one of the most ambitious transportation initiatives in the United States. Minnesota has the opportunity to establish itself as a leader not only in the Midwest, but in the entire country. With the passage of this bill, our state will put into action projects that are decades overdue; projects that, in addition to providing affordable alternatives for car-free Minnesotans, will uplift our economy and save our state billions of dollars in the long run.

It is no exaggeration to say that this piece of legislation may define the future of our state. Everything outlined therewithin, from the expansion of passenger rail service to the funding of various transit projects, represents a fundamental shift of the status quo. Without these initiatives, Minnesota will fall far short of its 2040 climate goals. Without a transportation plan as ambitious as this, our taxpayers will be left to shoulder the burden of an unsustainable, self-destructive, and financially draining car-centric paradigm. However expensive these provisions may appear upfront, they are nothing compared to the cost of inaction.

The provisions in this omnibus have been brought before several committees en route to their inclusion in this package. Those of you who are members of these committees have debated and received testimony about the specific bills perhaps multiple times. Representatives, I appreciate your work on these bills and your consideration of public testimony to this point. Through this months-long process, you have seen just how much this legislation means to Minnesota residents who have shown up each and every time, demonstrating the overwhelming support for reliable and efficient transit in our state. This omnibus is a crucial step toward a resilient, sustainable, and equitable future.

---

Sincerely,

*Jesse Cook*