

March 10, 2022

Dear Chair Lee:

On behalf of the 28,000 members and family members of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota, I am writing in support of the Saint Paul Port Authority's bonding request for the Hillcrest Redevelopment (HF 3234). We support inclusion of the project in your 2022 capital investment bills.

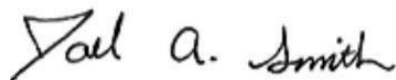
LIUNA's top priority for the 2022 Legislative Session is to pass a large, bipartisan local jobs and projects bill that makes robust investments in water and transportation infrastructure and housing that creates high-quality building and construction jobs across the state. The \$12 million request for Hillcrest Redevelopment will leverage an additional \$35 million for infrastructure and \$217 million in redevelopment. Once complete, the project will bring approximately 1,000 living wage jobs and 1,000 housing units – a mix of low, medium and high-density and affordable units – to a neighborhood in need of family-supporting jobs and housing.

As you may know, all infrastructure and vertical construction for this project will be subject to both project labor agreements and prevailing wage laws. The Port Authority expects infrastructure investment to create upwards of 400 union jobs and redevelopment during the vertical construction phase to create more than 1,800 union jobs. If the project moves forward with a district energy system, an additional 300 union jobs will be created, totaling more than 2,500 union jobs. In addition, the project's streets, water infrastructure, green space, parks and trails will be maintained by LIUNA Local 363 members who work for the City of Saint Paul.

Now is the time, with the State's AAA bond rating and historically low interest rates, to create local, living wage jobs. Again, we strongly recommend the Saint Paul Port Authority's bonding request for the Hillcrest Redevelopment to be included in your 2022 capital investment bills.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Joel Smith  
President and Business Manager  
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota