

Thank you members of the Conference Committee,

My name is Darwin Schaeferlane, and I am a Bloomington Resident who I hope is familiar at this point. My concerns remain with this Omnibus transportation bill, for as much as I support it. We need to ensure that the House version of the bill is matched by the Senate version. We need to ensure that the sales tax is matched with the House version of this bill, because our transit system deserves no less. To not guarantee those taxes will break our transportation system.

You know I am a victim of traffic violence and car dependency. You know your constituents deserve options that are accessible, reliable, and do not require a car to conduct basic necessities of life, like going to work or to the store. You know we want to pay for a better future and we will not accept virtue signaling on this matter.

We legitimately do not have the room in the Twin Cities for everyone to have a car and drive it every day. The traffic I witnessed today in Bloomington, Minneapolis and Richfield is unbearable and inexcusable on a day that is perfect in weather. Even in my car dependent neighborhood of Bloomington, I saw more people walking in the dusk than driving on residential streets. We deserve so much better than the status quo we are given, which is systemically segregated and unjust.

Nothing is more regressive than the status quo. Car dependency kills people. It leaves so many more injured, traumatized, suffering, with myself included. This is not political, this is about understanding basic facts and human rights. Nobody should go through the suffering of being collided with an SUV at up to, and over, 30 miles per hour in a crosswalk. This is my reality and if this was understood, you would all be BEGGING for way higher taxes than are getting proposed here.

Ensure the Northern Lights Express funding is aligned with the House version of the bill to guarantee a future of successful Intercity passenger rail in Minnesota. Ensure the \$0.75 delivery tax, and the increased sales tax to its House equivalent.

I cannot be more blunt and say that this bill will make or break Minnesota. This is a massive bill that has not only the whole country, but the whole world watching. Raising taxes is scary, but necessary to ensure we are not a bottom level performing state with crumbling institutions. If you want to see disability justice in this state and actually care about disabled, vulnerable Minnesotans? Prove it by making this truly the best transportation plan in America. I do not apologize for my bluntness. I am tired of waiting for results, and I am not the only one.

Minnesotans are fed up and, no matter what side of the party aisle you are on, you need to deliver and stop turning our everyday struggles into a petty game of concern trolling. I have waited for these provisions, like Northern Lights Express, since I was in middle school. We cannot afford waiting any longer.

Thank you for bringing this transportation bill's contents father than ever before in Minnesota history,

Darwin Schaeferlane