



May 3, 2021

Chair Nelson, Chair Marquart, and conferees to the Omnibus Tax Bill:

On behalf of the City of Waite Park, we write to thank you for your attention to local option sales tax (LOST) issues throughout this session. As you work toward agreement on a final omnibus bill this year, we urge you to include the Senate provision with respect to the City of Waite Park local option sales tax proposal.

The Senate provision includes all three of our regionally significant projects, funded by a proposed .5% local sales tax. While we appreciate the House position which unfortunately excludes our 10th Avenue Regional Corridor project, we respectfully ask for inclusion of all three projects as proposed by the Senate.

The City of Waite Park is a small city of less than 8,000 residents, with a daily regional transient population of over 30,000 people. We receive no local government aid. Our commercial/industrial tax base exceeds 50%. Our city administration strongly believes that our proposed local option sales tax is the best possible option for funding the 10th Avenue Regional Corridor project. Completing this project will result in opportunities for additional and responsible growth, which in turn will serve our region for decades to come.

We appreciate the extremely challenging and difficult work that lies ahead of you all, and we hope that the final version of your omnibus bill allows the City of Waite Park to put their full local sales tax proposal before the voters in the 2022 general election.

Sincerely,

Rick Miller
Mayor