



March 29, 2023

Chair Frank Hornstein
House Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
563 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hornstein,

On behalf of the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1,000 members throughout the region, I am writing to 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).

I appreciated the opportunity to testify in strong support of NLX in your committee a few weeks ago, along with several other supports of the project including city leaders, labor leaders, tribal leaders and colleagues from the business community including the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce.

The strength and diversity of the coalition supporting this proposal demonstrates that 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, higher education institutions, various attractions and much more. It will allow for veterans in Greater Minnesota, like me, to have better access to the Twin Cities VA Clinic. All of these benefits, while having a profoundly positive economic impact for communities along the line and throughout the region.

With significant federal investment currently available to the State, the timing for this project is now. We can build NLX and the federal government will pay for 80% of the project.

With many deserving projects seeking state funding, we sincerely appreciate your inclusion of this significant and shovel ready project in your bill. Thank you for your service our state and your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fanning, Vice President of Policy
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
dfanning@duluthchamber.com
Direct: 218.740.3743, Cell: 218.260.3597