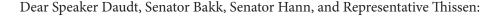
May 5, 2015



The Honorable Kurt Daudt Speaker of the House Minnesota House of Representatives Saint Paul, MN 55155 The Honorable Tom Bakk Majority Leader Minnesota Senate Saint Paul, MN 55155



The Honorable Paul Thissen Minority Leader Minnesota House of Representatives Saint Paul, MN 55155 The Honorable David Hann Minority Leader Minnesota Senate Saint Paul, MN 55155





A strong and sustainable transportation system is critical to the success of business in Minnesota, and one of the most important factors in continuing our state's economic expansion. Businesses need infrastructure, not only to move goods and services, but also to attract and retain a quality workforce. This is an issue that affects Minnesota's quality of life regardless of how old you are or where you live – Minnesota needs investments in transportation if it is going to continue to prosper.

We support a long-term solution, providing predictable and sustainable funding that allows for planning, expanding and repairing Minnesota's transportation system. This solution must include investments in improving current road and bridge networks, expanding those networks as required, and investing in options such as transit to reflect the diverse needs of students, commuters and seniors.



To be clear -- maintaining our current system is not enough. We must make strategic investments in projects that will help regional economies grow throughout the state, including key expansions of busy highways and transit networks in regional hubs.

Investment in transportation is critical to Minnesota's competitiveness, so we also support an increase in revenue that allows us to properly plan and build a transportation system that will ensure regional competitiveness, vitality and economic growth in our state.



We encourage you to act this year to address this critical issue. Our inability to support an adequate transportation system will be a barrier to future job creation if we don't act now.

Sincerely,



Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
Matt Kramer, President

Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
David Ross, President

Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce Todd Klingel, President

Minneapolis Downtown Council Steve Cramer, President Greater Mankato Growth Jonathan Zierdt, President

Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce Cal Brink, Executive Director