



March 26, 2023

Ms. Sandra L. Pappas
Chair, Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Ref: Senate File 2927

Dear Ms. Pappas and Capital Investment Committee Members:

On behalf of the Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX), I would like to express our support for Senate File 2927 relating to capital investment and appropriating \$20,000,000 for the Lot D redevelopment project in the City of Duluth, MN.

This funding is critical for the project to happen. This site, in its current condition, cannot be developed. The \$20,000,000 will be used to stabilize and repair the seawall, demolish and remove debris, perform soil correction and site preparation. These activities need to take place prior to any development occurring. Supporting this funding allocation will allow our community to move ahead with approximately 400-500 new units of housing, which are desperately needed. Our local employers are telling us they aren't able to fill open positions, let alone plan for growth and expansion due to the housing crisis. This project can be part of housing solutions for our region.

Private sector led and with a mission to grow the regional economy, APEX works in collaboration to create business opportunities and drive investment in northeast Minnesota. Based in Duluth, APEX has been working closely with the City of Duluth, Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce, Inland Development Partners, and community stakeholders to bring this multi-faceted project to life. Redeveloping Lot D will benefit the whole community and visitors alike.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration to support SF 2927. We are excited to see the Lot D project move forward! Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss this unique opportunity in more detail.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel A. Johnson".

Rachel Johnson
APEX President & CEO