

March 24, 2023

To: Minnesota Senate Capital Investment Committee
Re: Support of SF 2927, relating to capital investment; appropriating money for the Lot D redevelopment in the city of Duluth.

Chair Pappas and members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee –

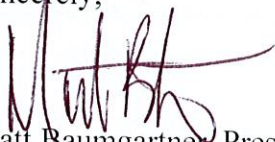
On behalf of the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce and are nearly one thousand members, we write in strong support of SF 2927, relating to the \$20M capital investment for the Lot D redevelopment in the city of Duluth.

The Duluth area is in desperate need of additional housing options, of all types, to catch up with, and keep up with, growing workforce demands from a number of our Chamber members and local employers including Cirrus Aircraft, Essentia Health, St. Luke's, Altec Inc, higher education institutions, and many other small and larger local businesses and organizations.

Housing is among the top legislative priorities for the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce. We are pleased and grateful to be working in strong collaboration with Inland Development Partners, as well as the City of Duluth, on the plans for Lot D. These plans include the potential for 400-500 units of much needed housing in our community. Before those units can be built, the property is in need of major redevelopment including repairing seawalls, connecting utilities, demolition and removal of debris, updates to transportation facilities, soil correction and other improvements. Approving SF 2927 will provide the needed funding for these efforts and help turn this vision into reality. In turn, we will be adding much-needed housing options in our region, which will help address workforce shortages, population growth and help grow the local and state economy and tax-base. The development of Lot D will be transformational for our community, as well as for our local, regional and state economy.

For all these reasons and more, the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to enthusiastically support SF 2927. We would be grateful for your consideration and support as well. Thank you for your leadership and service to our state. Please feel free to contact us anytime if you have any questions, concerns or would like to discuss this in more detail.

Sincerely,



Matt Baumgartner, President
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
mbaumgartner@duluthchamber.com
Direct: 218.740.3751, cell: 218.341.4026



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