

Affiliated AFL-CIO

# DULUTH BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

2002 LONDON ROAD

LABOR CENTER

DULUTH, MINN. 55812



Officers

Craig Olson

*President*

Andrew Campeau

*Vice President*

Dan Olson

*Secretary*

Stan Paczynski

*Treasurer*

The Honorable Timothy Walz

Governor, State of Minnesota

130 State Capitol

St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher

Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd

St. Paul, MN 55155

Boilermakers #647

Bricklayers #1

Carpenters #361

Cement Masons #633

Elevator #9

IBEW #242

Insulators #49

Ironworkers #512

Laborers #1091

Millrights #1348

Operators #49

Painters #106

Pipefitters #11

Roofers #96

Sheetmetal #10

Sprinklerfitters #669

Teamsters #346

November 3, 2021

Dear Governor Walz and Commissioner Anderson Kelliher:

On behalf of the men and women of the Duluth Building and Construction Trades Council, we write to you today in support of the Northern Lights Express (NLX) passenger rail project connecting Minneapolis/St. Paul with Duluth/Superior.

The NLX project is America's #1 shovel-ready rail project and has long been supported by cities, counties, a tribal nation, businesses and industry, and many other stakeholders along the rail corridor from Minneapolis to Duluth and Superior. The working women and men of the Duluth Trades Council are pleased to offer our support to this much needed rail project.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 includes billions of dollars for intercity passenger rail projects like the Northern Lights Express. We urge the Walz Administration and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to act quickly in seeking these federal funds and developing a 5-year plan to complete this project.

We are ready to put men and women in the trades to work on the project. This passenger rail line will connect students to colleges and universities. This rail line will connect thousands of veterans from northern Minnesota and Wisconsin with V.A. healthcare. This will be a connection for tourists and business commuters. It will also take vehicles off of the I-35 corridor, helping us combat climate change. This project is a win-win for Minnesota.

We urge you to make this rail project a priority in the next Legislative session and work aggressively to seek these new federal rail dollars once they become available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Craig Olson, President  
Duluth Building Trades