



January 10, 2022

Bob Manzoline, Executive Director
NLX Passenger Rail Alliance
111 Station 44 Rd
Eveleth, MN 55734

Dear Mr. Manzoline,

The East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) voted unanimously to refresh their support for the Northern Lights Express passenger rail project and the associated request to the Minnesota legislature for \$85 million in matched funds.

The ECRDC works extensively through our Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) to improve coordination between transportation providers and service agencies to fill gaps in our transportation system. This involves identifying new ways to provide customers with more options of when and where to travel. We see the proposed NLX passenger rail project as another exciting opportunity to connect with transportation options that extend beyond the boundaries of our east-central region.

Our region stands to benefit greatly from the NLX project with reduced traffic congestion on our state and county roadways; providing a safer option for travel; contributing to a cleaner environment; and increasing tourism to the area. We are confident that veterans, senior citizens, students, tourists, and commuters will all want to take advantage of this cost-effective transportation option.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to make the NLX project a reality.

Yours most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Voss", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Robert L. Voss
Executive Director