



# Osprey Wilds

Environmental Learning Center

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The Honorable Timothy Walz  
Governor, State of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Nancy Daubenberger  
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation  
395 John Ireland Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

January 27, 2023

Dear Governor Walz and Commissioner Nancy Daubenberger,

On behalf of Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center, I am writing to express my strong support of the Northern Lights Express (NLX) passenger rail system. This opportunity would provide so many economic and quality of life benefits to the citizens and communities of Minnesota. With all of the work that has gone into this project over the last 20 years, it is primed for construction and actualization.

I attended several meetings for NLX when we were working to get funds from the 2009 Stimulus Bill, which ultimately did not occur for this project. The passage of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act of 2021 included 16 billion dollars for Minnesota to now address this pressing need, as well as this amazing opportunity. The NLX is America's #1 shovel ready project as stated by Amtrak and I urge you to prioritize Northern Lights Express in the next legislative session and seize the opportunity before us to connect our Minnesota cities via passenger rail.

Osprey Wilds hosts 100 K-12 schools annually with 4,000 K-12 learners at our campus five miles west of Sandstone. Currently, schools travel in buses to get here. But it would make it so much more accessible, cheaper and faster if those students could board the NLX in the Twin Cities and arrive in Sandstone, with just a short bus ride out to our campus. We see the potential for many more schools wanting to do field trips if they had access to light rail and did not have to deal with the staffing and financial implications of bussing students up here and back. It would make the trip more feasible in many ways, and add to more economic growth to the area for Arrowhead Transit Services, local businesses, and Osprey Wilds.

Please push for funding for NLX with your strongest ability. Minnesota would be so much for the better to have light rail connecting the Twin Cities to the Twin Ports for so many reasons. I hope you share that sentiment and will work to secure funding for this important opportunity.

Sincerely,

Bryan Wood  
Executive Director