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Minnesota Senate Transportation Committee  
Room 1100 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue W,  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Dibble and Members of the Transportation Committee,

I am writing in support of SF 2506 in the Minnesota Senate. This bill would establish a project to improve the safety of our transit services and help to change the culture of riding transit going forward.

In recent years, the reputation of the Twin Cities transit system has taken a nosedive as concerns over safety on transit - particularly light rail - have grown. At MVTA, we believe that transit should be a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable experience for riders. Although MVTA does not operate any light rail lines or have any particular current issues with safety, our services provide crucial connections and transfer points to the Blue and Green Lines, particularly at Mall of America and in both downtowns. Our service area also has access to the Red and Orange Lines, which provide further connections to off-board fare payment services. MVTA's services ultimately can only be as good as the services that we are connecting people to, so the safety on these lines are of significant importance to MVTA.

Transit has not reached its true potential in the state of Minnesota despite being the most viable solution to curb our CO2 emissions in the transportation sector (along with biking and walking). Without a safe experience, transit will ultimately struggle to meet its potential as a reliable, equitable, and environmentally beneficial mode of transportation for the people of the state. Transit is intrinsically interconnected, and offering a safe experience will create better ridership and more beneficial outcomes for all transit services in the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Luther Wynder'.

Luther Wynder  
CEO, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority