



Representative Dave Lislegard
Chair, House Property Tax Division
451 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Grant Hauschild
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3111
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 15, 2024

Dear Chair Lislegard and Senator Hauschild:

On behalf of the Mesabi Fit Coalition in Mt. Iron, I am writing today in support of House File 5198, Rep. Lislegard's Property Tax Division Report, and Senate File 5435 (Hauschild).

We appreciate you including funding for Mesabi Fit in your bill!

The Mesabi Fit Coalition's proposed project represents a pivotal opportunity to revitalize a vital community resource. The former Mesabi Family YMCA has long served as a cornerstone of our community, providing essential programs and services that promote health, wellness, and social engagement for individuals of all ages. However, over the years, the facility has faced challenges related to aging infrastructure and limited capacity, hindering its ability to meet the evolving needs of our growing population.

The proposed renovation, reconstruction, and expansion efforts promise to breathe new life into this cherished institution, ensuring that it remains a beacon of health and wellness for generations to come. By modernizing the facility and expanding its capacity, the Mesabi Fit Coalition aims to enhance access to fitness facilities, recreational programs, and educational opportunities, fostering a healthier and more vibrant community for all residents. A membership assistance program assures fully equitable access by persons/families with low incomes. Parents are supported by a modern and well-staffed child watch program. Partnership opportunities are being developed to make the facility available to schools which lack comparable facilities, children and families involved with foster care, mental health, and recovery programs, and more.

This investment will impact a broad geographic area and a wide spectrum of demographic groups. It enhances area quality of life measures with all the attendant benefits to economic development and public health.

Respectfully,

Christy Dreshar
Executive Director
Mesabi Fit

CC: Iron Range Delegation, Mesabi Fit Board of Directors