



Duluth Seaway Port Authority
Saint Paul Port Authority | Red Wing Port Authority
Wabasha Port Authority | Port Authority of Winona

TO: Chair Pappas, Senate Capital Investment Committee

FROM: Northharvest Bean Growers Association, Minnesota Forest Industries, Minnesota Farmers Union, AgriGrowth, and Iron Mining Association of Minnesota

DATE: February 10, 2025

Chair Pappas and Members,

Minnesota Ports play a foundational role in our respective industries and as a result, Minnesota's broader economy. It is with this in mind, that **we strongly urge you to fully fund Minnesota's Ports request for critical and urgent capital investments.**

Minnesota's Ports provide valuable access to national and international markets for a variety of commodities from several economic sectors of the state's economy. This year, the MN Ports Association is seeking \$44 million funding for the Port Development Assistant Program ("PDAP"). PDAP is essential to keeping Minnesota's Ports functional, providing funds for both infrastructure repairs and new construction. With bonding legislation failing to be enacted during the traditional bonding year in 2024 it is essential that the full amount is allocated to PDAP in 2025.

Minnesota's Ports are a critical link in the state's supply chain and go well beyond serving the regions where they are physically located. They benefit the entire state by exporting products from key industries and acting as an inbound conduit for materials key industries rely on like cement, fertilizer, salt and petroleum products.

Minnesota's Ports handle farm products, fertilizers, iron ore, and other bulk commodities, as well as construction materials and large and oversized equipment like wind turbines, towers and blades. In total over 70 million tons of major commodities move through Minnesota's Ports each and every year.

Much of the Port infrastructure in the state is past its original useful life and in need of repair or replacement. \$44 million to PDAP would fund critical projects at each of the five public ports (the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, the St. Paul Port Authority, the Port Authority of Winona, the Red Wing Port Authority, and the Wabasha Port Authority) to help them more effectively and efficiently move goods and products to market and help drive economic activity for the entire state. PDAP funds can also leverage federal infrastructure funds increasing the state's return on investment.

Having a Ports system that is well maintained and easily accessible is a critical component for the many industries across the state. Efficient ports are critical to Minnesota's economy and our ability to be an economic leader in the region. **We urge you to fully fund PDAP and invest in Minnesota's Ports.**

Sincerely,



Mitch Coulter
Executive Director
Northarvest Bean Growers Association



Darin Broton
Executive Director
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Executive Vice-President
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