



May 12, 2017

Governor Dayton, Speaker Daudt, and Leader Gazelka:

Minnesota's business community expects the Legislature and Governor to find agreement on a long term, comprehensive, multi modal transportation funding bill this year.

Businesses rely on a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system to get their employees and customers to their doors and their goods to market. As you know, without action this year, the amount of resources invested into our transportation system is projected to drop significantly. Two years have passed without action to increase investment in our transportation's infrastructure. We cannot miss the opportunity this year to find consensus and get a bill done.

We appreciate the efforts of Representative Torkelson and Senator Newman to bring HF 861 forward to provide significant new funding for transportation.

- Over the next 10 years, this bill will increase investment in our transportation infrastructure by \$2.6 Billion, using General Fund revenues from the transportation related sales tax receipts.
- It will add another \$1.2 Billion for road and bridges through bonding and federal appropriations, including \$300 Million in bonding for the Corridors of Commerce program, which is incredibly important to a number of our communities.
- It will provide funding to help address the current deficit in funding for the metro bus system.
- It will put local communities in the metro area in the lead in building out and operating the metro transit system that's outside the regular route bus system.
- It will hold MnDOT to the 15% efficiency standard we have been pushing for and they have proven they can achieve: for every \$1 of new investment, MnDOT will be expected to perform \$1.15 worth of enhancements to the state's system of roads and bridges.

HF 861 represents an important milestone for the state of Minnesota. It is the largest investment in transportation since 2008, and it's badly needed. We have consistently advocated for the enactment of this type of investment THIS year. In doing so, we have asked all sides to remain open to compromise, knowing that give and take would be necessary to produce a bill that the legislature could pass and this Governor could sign.

We are grateful to House and Senate leaders and the House and Senate conferees for their work to carefully craft this bill and find a reasonable middle ground. We note, however, the Governor's statements that more work must be done to secure his support. We urge the Governor and House and Senate leaders to work quickly to find agreement on any areas of disagreement that remain. With just over a week left before adjournment, there is sufficient time to find compromise. But compromise must be found. The gavel must not come down on the 2017 session without agreement on a bill to make the transportation investment necessary to make Minnesota ready – ready to grow and ready for the future.

Sincerely,

The 2017 Minnesota Chamber Federation (*see next page*)

2017 Minnesota Chamber Federation

Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce
Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce
Austin Area Chamber of Commerce
Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce
Brainerd Lakes Chamber
Burnsville Chamber of Commerce
Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce
Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
East Grand Forks/Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce
Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce
Elk River Area Chamber of Commerce
Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Fergus Falls Chamber of Commerce
Grand Rapids Area Chamber
Greater Mankato Growth Inc.
Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau
Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce
I94 West Chamber of Commerce
International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
Lakeville Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB
Litchfield Chamber of Commerce
Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
New Ulm Area Chamber of Commerce
North Hennepin Area Chamber of Commerce
Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism
River Heights Chamber of Commerce
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce
Saint Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce
Shakopee Area Chamber
Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce
TwinWest Chamber of Commerce
Waconia Chamber of Commerce
Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce
White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce
Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce
Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce