

March 2, 2020

Mr. Bob Manzoline, Executive Director
NLX Alliance
111 Station 44 Road
Eveleth, MN 55734

Dear Mr. Manzoline,

We are writing to endorse the Northern Lights Express Project, which would benefit Northland and Twin Cities residents alike. As leaders of Twin Ports higher education institutions, we encourage our policymakers to continue the process of securing project approval and necessary funding.

One of the factors influencing the college selection process for many of our students is that Duluth-Superior is “the right distance” from home. In other words, they want to remain close to family and be able to come home for visits. Despite the relatively short distance, many students find it challenging to get to and from the Twin Cities. Train service would provide a beneficial transportation alternative for our students, including those who are veterans needing access to veteran services in the Twin Cities.

As you probably know, rail transportation has the lowest carbon footprint per passenger mile of any form of mass transit. Northern Lights Express would be consistent with our region’s belief in sustainability and being good stewards of the environment in which we live. We all support promoting sustainable practices among students, faculty, and staff.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the Northern Lights Express.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. McDonald
The College of St. Scholastica
President



Patricia L. Rogers
Lake Superior College
President



Lendley C. Black
University of Minnesota, Duluth
Chancellor



Renée M. Wachter
University of Wisconsin, Superior
Chancellor