

# IBEW MINNESOTA STATE COUNCIL



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The Honorable Timothy Walz  
Governor, State of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher  
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation  
395 John Ireland Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 8, 2022

Dear Governor Walz and Commissioner Anderson Kelliher:

We write to you today in support of America's #1 shovel-ready rail project, the Northern Lights Express (NLX), a passenger rail project connecting the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul with the Port Cities of Duluth and Superior.

In 2019, Amtrak's Joe McHugh, vice president of state-supported services, praised the years of work done on the project, and called it "one of the most shovel-ready projects in the nation."

The NLX project has long been supported by cities, counties, a tribal nation, businesses and industry, and many other stakeholders along the rail corridor from Minneapolis to Duluth and Superior. The working women and men of the IBEW MN State Council are pleased to offer our support to this great project.

The IBEW represents workers in the electrical industry that will be included throughout several jurisdictional scopes of work utilized in the project. IBEW represented Railroad, Utility, Electricians, Communications and Signal and Control workers that will be working on this project.

After nearly two decades of visioning, this project is ready to go. With the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, billions of dollars will be available to complete intercity passenger rail projects like the Northern Lights Express. We urge the Walz Administration and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to act quickly in seeking these federal funds and developing a 5-year plan to complete this project.

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The NLX project in Minnesota and Wisconsin is ready to go. We are ready to put men and women in the Electrical Industry to work on the project and we are ready to begin moving people throughout the rail corridor. This passenger rail line will connect students to colleges and universities. This rail line will connect thousands of veterans from northern Minnesota and Wisconsin with V.A. healthcare. This will be a connection for tourists and business commuters. In addition, not only will this project provide job opportunities while building the NLX project, it will also contribute to countless jobs from development and construction of transit oriented development along the line.

We urge you to make this rail project a priority in the next Legislative session and work aggressively to seek these new federal rail dollars once they become available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Weimer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".