



April 24, 2025

Dear Chair Marty, Ranking Member Pratt, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on Senate File 2082, the Senate Omnibus Transportation Finance and Policy bill.

Each of our organizations represent thousands of men and women who build and maintain the state's transportation system. Our members take great pride in building the state's infrastructure that allows for efficient movement of goods, service delivery, and access to recreational opportunities.

The comprehensive transportation funding package passed by the Legislature in 2023 was a major step towards making our members and all Minnesotans safer, creating thousands of family-supporting construction careers, and boosting our local economies.

We greatly appreciate the Transportation Committees bipartisan work on Senate File 2082, including protecting the long term and dedicated revenue streams for roads, bridges and transit. In addition, we support the following provisions contained in the bill:

- The additional \$100 million in Trunk Highway Bonding, directed at state road construction. Additional investment will accelerate projects that would otherwise be constructed in future years avoiding cost increases due to inflation while at the same time increasing safety and mobility enhancements.
- The provision to capture efficiently driven resources and directing them to the highly successful Corridors of Commerce fund. We additionally support the \$2 million appropriation for planning grants within this program. The Corridors of Commerce program has garnered historically strong bipartisan support and has delivered tangible results in improving heavily used and critically important highway corridors.
- The increase in the electric vehicle surcharge is a common sense and forward-facing approach to funding our highway and road system. Since these vehicles use the system identically with gas-powered vehicles, while not paying the traditional fuel tax that funds the system, an increase to \$200 a year per vehicle is a way for all users to pay their fair share of the costs of the system.
- The provisions in the bill that promote increased driver education and work zone safety. The health and safety of our members is deeply personal to us and our organizations. Since the construction industry has among the highest rates of death by suicide, we have increased our efforts to support our members' physical and mental health. These provisions will save our members' lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide our perspectives on the Senate transportation bill. On behalf of the thousands of workers that build our state's infrastructure, we will continue to be a resource for the Legislature as the transportation budget and policy discussions continue.

Sincerely,

Ryan Davies, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, International Union of Operations Engineers Local 49

Barry Davies, Business Manager – Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Iron Workers Local 512

Joel Smith, President and Business Manager, LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota

Richard Kolodziejski, Director of Government Affairs, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters

Chad Morris, Business Manager, Cement Masons, Plasterers & Shophands Local 633