March 31st, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Congressman Pete Satuber
145 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Secretary Duffy and Congressman Stauber,

On behalf of the Duluth Legislative Delegation, we write to express our strong and unequivocal support for Project Labor Agreements and to voice our firm opposition to any federal action that would withhold or condition critical transportation funding based on the use of these agreements.

Project Labor Agreements are a long-standing and proven standard across Northern Minnesota. They ensure that major infrastructure projects are completed by highly skilled local workers, uphold fair wages and safe working conditions, and support the union contractors who have built and sustained our region's economy for generations. These agreements are not theoretical. They are practical tools that deliver quality results on time and on budget while strengthening local communities.

The current federal posture places local governments in an unacceptable position. Communities like St. Louis County are being forced to choose between maintaining their commitment to local labor and fair standards or forfeiting essential federal transportation funding. That is not a real choice. It is a direct challenge to the values and economic foundations of our region.

We reject the premise that communities should have to abandon Project Labor Agreements to access federal resources. Federal transportation funding should support strong local economies, not undermine them. Penalizing the use of PLAs effectively punishes regions like ours that prioritize workforce standards, apprenticeship opportunities, and family-supporting jobs.

Northern Minnesota has a deep and proud labor tradition. Our roads, bridges, ports, and public infrastructure were built by union labor, and they continue to depend on that skilled workforce today. Project Labor Agreements ensure that public investments stay local, create pathways for the next generation of trades workers, and maintain the high standards taxpayers expect.

We urge you to take immediate action to reverse or clarify any federal guidance or policy that restricts transportation funding for projects utilizing Project Labor Agreements. At a minimum, local governments must retain the authority to use PLAs without fear of losing federal support for critical infrastructure investments.

This is about more than a single project or funding cycle. It is about whether federal policy will respect and support the workers and communities that make regions like Northern Minnesota strong.

We stand firmly with our local governments, our trades workers, and our labor partners. We ask that you do the same.

Sincerely,

Senator Grant Hauschild
District 3

Senator Jennifer A. McEwen
District 8

Representative Pete Johnson
District 8A

Representative Liish Kozlowski
District 8B