



May 8, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of
Transportation
U.S. Department of
Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips
Maritime Administrator
Maritime Administration
U.S. Department of
Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Duluth Seaway Port Authority Grant Application - MARAD Port Infrastructure Development

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Rear Admiral Phillips:

On behalf of Minnesota Power, I would like to express our support for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's (DSPA) application for \$33.8M in grant funding through the Port Infrastructure Development Program to help fund the 2024 Duluth Port Terminal Expansion project; this grant, should it be awarded, will be matched by \$8.45M in secured state grant and local funding.

The DSPA owns and operates Clure Public Marine Terminal on Rice's Point in Duluth, which falls within the larger Lincoln Park neighborhood. Improvements to port infrastructure and service capabilities made by DSPA support the growth of well-paying industrial jobs in Duluth and strengthen supply chain options for regional industries. As of 2022, maritime shipping within the Port generated over 7,000 direct and induced jobs and over \$1.6 billion in economic activity.

The 2024 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion and Rehabilitation project includes 3 main components: (1) reconstruction of 625 linear feet of the Berth 11 dock at the Clure Public Marine Terminal (2) demolishing the former grain elevators at the Duluth Lake Port to create 7.5 acres of new laydown space; and (3) reconstruction of 1150 linear feet of the Duluth Lake Port dock. This urgently needed rehabilitation of port infrastructure will allow for future expansion at the port, which last year handled an impressive 31.7 million tons of cargo, including iron ore, cement, durum wheat, spring wheat, oats, beet pulp pellets, and breakbulk, project and containerized cargo.


Minnesota Power, a division of ALLETE, Inc., provides retail electric power to over 150,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers across a 26,000 square mile service territory which includes the DSPA. Under our **EnergyForward** strategy, we are a clean-energy leader, already delivering over 50% renewable energy ahead of all other Minnesota utilities. Our plan is to grow our renewable energy delivered to customers to over 70% by 2030 as we strive to deliver

on our 100% carbon-free energy vision.

The initiatives within this grant application support Minnesota Power's goals of providing and supporting meaningful investment in our communities, regional growth and prosperity and ensuring a sustainable future.

We appreciate your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Frederickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" and last name "Frederickson" clearly legible.

Frank Frederickson

Vice President

Minnesota Power Customer Experience & Engineering Services