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May 18, 2016

Kurt Daudt, Speaker of the House  
Minnesota State Legislature  
463 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Speaker Daudt,

Regarding your recent statement that Eden Prairie does not support the SWLRT project, with all due respect, nothing could be further from the truth. After numerous public hearings, literally hundreds of meetings with business and property owners, and thousands of hours of our staff's time vetting alignments and station locations and thoroughly reviewing design plans - the Eden Prairie City Council has twice approved Municipal Consent for this project. Our residents and business community also support the project and recognize the long term benefits it will provide our community by improving mobility and supporting job growth and economic development. The Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has approved a resolution of support and their organization has very much been engaged in the planning and advocacy of the project over the past 6 plus years. In a statistically valid business survey conducted in 2011, 6 in 10 businesses said they supported the project. Some of the direct quotes from the survey included:

- "It can bring the workforce to Eden Prairie."
- "We're hoping to recruit and retain good talented people, we're excited to see it coming in."
- "Positive effect, as far as getting new employees and current employees to work. I have some employees that are very interested in the light rail."
- "It would be as positive a thing to get from Eden Prairie to downtown. It would increase commerce in both directions."

We recently arranged meetings with Representatives Loon and Selcer, Senator Hann and leaders of three Eden Prairie companies, Liberty Property Trust, Whiteboard Product Solutions, and Milestone AV Technologies – so they could hear directly from these leaders why they support the SWLRT project. All three companies will be directly impacted by the project's construction, yet they still support it and recognize the long-term benefits it will provide by providing their employees another commute alternative.

In a survey of our residents from 2012, 79% supported SWLRT coming to Eden Prairie. Like our business community, they recognize from growing congestion on our roads and freeways that other modes of transportation are needed to provide greater mobility, to support job growth, and to provide a better quality life for the entire region.

With over a \$100 million already invested in its' planning and design, and hundreds of thousands of hours of time invested by city, county, and metro staff, elected officials, business leaders, and citizens at large, and with all funding partners committed and prepared to deliver their share of this important investment, it's now clearly time for you and rest of the Minnesota Legislature to approve a long-term comprehensive transportation funding package that includes funding for the Southwest Light Rail project.

The City of Eden Prairie supports the Southwest Light Rail Project!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy Tyra Lukens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Tyra Lukens  
Mayor, City of Eden Prairie

cc: Governor Mark Dayton