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January 15, 2026

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Letter of Support for the CSAH 100 Railroad Crossing Grade Separation Project Located in the City of Aurora, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Duffy,

KGM Contractors strongly supports St. Louis County's application for BUILD grant funding for the CSAH 100 Rail Crossing Grade Separation Project located in Aurora, Minnesota. This project is critical to improving safety, mobility, and economic vitality for the region.

The existing at-grade rail crossing on CSAH 100 creates frequent delays and significant safety risks for vehicles, freight, and recreational traffic. These disruptions increase costs for businesses, limit access to customers and suppliers, and impact school transportation, forcing buses and families to take lengthy detours when the crossing is blocked. Constructing a grade-separated bridge will eliminate these delays, improve freight reliability, ensure uninterrupted emergency access, and provide a safe and reliable route for students traveling to and from school.

The proposed bridge will remove a high-risk crossing ranked in the top 20% for crash potential, guarantee reliable access for emergency services and school transportation, and enhance freight efficiency for industries such as mining, logging and construction - supporting economic growth and operational efficiency in the eastern Iron Range. It will also deliver safe, multimodal connectivity with dedicated lanes for pedestrians, bicyclists, ATVs, and snowmobiles, while accommodating the planned Mesabi Trail extension.

We fully support St. Louis County as they develop this project which will improve the mobility and safety of transportation in the eastern Iron Range and strongly urge your support and consideration for this vital project as well.

Sincerely,

Kerry Abramson
President
KGM Contractors, Inc.