



March 16, 2018

Majority Leader Paul Gazelka
3113 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Speaker Melissa Hortman
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Majority Leader and Speaker,

On behalf of the 70,000 union construction professionals in Minnesota, we appreciate your leadership and your focus on the health and safety of all Minnesotans during this difficult time.

We see three legislative priorities that need immediate attention. First, ensuring that Minnesota Unemployment benefits are readily available to Minnesota's construction workers impacted by the coronavirus epidemic by: 1. Eliminating the waiting week; 2. Clarifying eligibility requirements around actively seeking work; 3. Eliminating impacts on employer's experience ratings; and 4. Extending benefits for an additional 26 weeks.

Second, we encourage you to finish the 2020 Minnesota Legislative session strong by focusing on investing in Minnesota people and projects. A bonding bill that meets Minnesota's infrastructure needs can be the economic stimulus needed to jump start the economy, and especially the construction industry, after the worst of the coronavirus impacts have passed. Funding needed asset preservation, public building construction projects, local economic development, and safe roads, bridges, and transit systems will better serve Minnesota communities and businesses and help get goods to market and put Minnesotans to work.

Finally, we want to respectfully urge the Governor and the Legislature to ensure that local wage rates established under Minnesota's prevailing wage laws apply to any construction projects funded or financed in whole or in part with taxpayer dollars.

Again, we want to thank you for your leadership during these difficult times. Please do not hesitate to contact us if Minnesota's Building Trades unions can be of any assistance to ensuring the health, safety, and economic success of our State.

Sincerely,

Three handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is for Harry Melander, the second for Craig Olson, and the third for Jessica Looman.

Harry Melander
President

Craig Olson
Secretary Treasurer

Jessica Looman
Executive Director

