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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2020

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
United States Secretary of Commerce
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: City of Duluth, Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

Dear Secretary Ross:

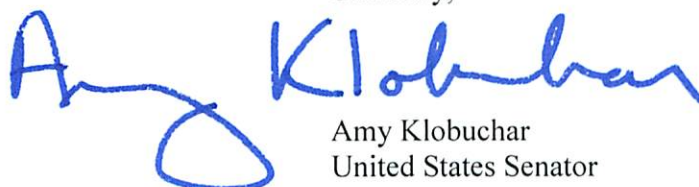
I am writing in support of the city of Duluth's application for funding through the United States Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. If awarded, the funding would support the city's Coastal Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project, which would repair essential city infrastructure along the Lake Superior shoreline and reinvigorate the regional economy.

Located in northeastern Minnesota, the Duluth metropolitan area is home to nearly 280,000 residents. Since 2018, four major storms have ravaged the city of Duluth and the shoreline the city shares with Lake Superior. The city of Duluth estimates that repairs to the shoreline will cost up to \$30 million. The damage caused by these storms has also crippled the city's tourism industry, which is heavily reliant on the Duluth shoreline and is the second largest employer in the region. Every year, the tourism industry along Duluth's shoreline generates over \$950 million in economic activity, but the recent impact of these storms has devastated the local economy.

Funding from the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program would be used by the city of Duluth to enhance and repair critical infrastructure along Duluth's shoreline. This includes the rehabilitation of the Lakewalk, a shared-use trail along the shore of Lake Superior that is essential to connecting tourists to attractions and businesses. The funding would also be used to rehabilitate and improve the seawall's berthing space, which would benefit the city's most critical logistics and transportation infrastructure. These enhancements would protect the city's roadways, sewer mains, and commercial rail lines from future disasters.

Again, I support the city of Duluth's application for funding through the EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. If you have any questions, please contact Rommel Lee in my Minnesota office at (612) 727-5220 or by email at Rommel_Lee@Klobuchar.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator