



**Alan R. Hodnik**  
Chairman, President and  
Chief Executive Officer

September 22, 2015

Honorable Don Ness  
Mayor of City of Duluth

City of Duluth Counselors  
City Hall, Room 403  
411 West First Street  
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mayor Ness and City Counselors:

The renaissance fostered under your leadership in Duluth has been tremendous to witness and both ALLETE and Minnesota Power have been pleased to partner with the city on any number of economic and community development initiatives. From Involta and the AAR-Air Canada outcomes to significant Minnesota Power Foundation investments in the Damiano Center, Great Lakes Aquarium and COGS, we are deeply invested in Duluth's success.

We have been following closely the community dialogue relative to Superior Street renewal and proposed bike lanes as part of that enhancement. While we support the Superior Street renovation we are concerned about the considerable loss of parking and negative effects on commerce that proposed bikes lanes on Superior Street would have.

Clearly all modes of transportation are important to our downtown, but everything cannot be reasonably accommodated with the 80 feet available on Superior Street. Our retailers and small business that have brought their own form of renewal and vibrancy to the downtown rely heavily on adequate street parking. Designated bike lanes on Superior Street would take away some of the premium parking and would be detrimental to retailers and small businesses. Further, it would dissuade additional retail investment as we Superior Street business entrepreneurs work collectively to transform remaining empty storefronts.

We have thoughtfully weighed the various alternatives proposed and believe that designated bike lanes on Michigan Street seem more logical. Especially given the wonderful new Duluth Transportation Center under development which is designed to accommodate 150 bikes and which would be a far safer alternative as well.

ALLETE, Minnesota Power and ALLETE Clean Energy have nearly 500 employees who work directly in the downtown area. They utilize all forms of transportation on their way to our main campus and have found Michigan Street very accommodating as they come and go with bikes. We appreciate the open nature of the process and would hope that the City Council preserves critical Superior Street parking while still accommodating bicycle enthusiasts with lanes on Michigan Avenue.

Sincerely,  
ALLETE, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Hodnik".

Alan R. Hodnik  
Chairman, President & CEO

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