STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

Executive Order 24-02

Amending Executive Order 19-19

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

Railroads are critical to Minnesota's economy. On April 1, 2019, I issued Executive Order 19-19, establishing the Governor's Council on Freight Rail ("Council"). The Council's purpose is to strengthen the partnership between the State of Minnesota and railroads, promote safety, and ensure the efficient movement of goods while minimizing the impacts of those operations on our local communities. Executive Order 19-19 requires the State to work with key stakeholders, including labor unions, in evaluating the array of issues impacting freight rail operations. The perspective of labor unions has been invaluable to maintaining safe and efficient freight rail operations in Minnesota. To recognize their contributions, we are making changes to the makeup of the Council to formally include representatives from labor unions.

For these reasons, I order that:

1. Paragraph 3 of Executive Order 19-19, as amended by Executive Order 23-05, is amended by the following addition (indicated by underlined text):

    3. The Commissioner of Transportation, or the Commissioner's designee, will serve as the Vice Chair of the Council.

2. Paragraph 4 of Executive Order 19-19, as amended by Executive Order 23-05, is amended by the following addition (indicated by underlined text) and deletions (indicated by strikethrough):

    4. The Council will include the other following cabinet members, or their designee:

        a. Commissioner of Agriculture

        ~~b. Commissioner of Commerce~~

c. Commissioner of Employment and Economic Development

~~d. Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation~~

e. Chair of the Metropolitan Council

f. Commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency

g. Commissioner of Public Safety

~~h. Commissioner of Revenue~~

3. Paragraph 5 of Executive Order 19-19, as amended by Executive Order 23-05, is amended by the following addition (indicated by underlined text):

    g. Two members representing labor unions

4. Paragraph 6 of Executive Order 19-19, as amended by Executive Order 23-05, is amended by the following addition (indicated by underlined text) and deletion (indicated by strikethrough):

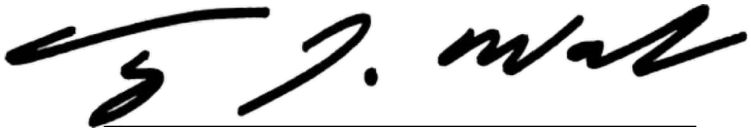
    6. The Council will consult with and solicit advice from private industry, governmental entities, ~~labor unions, and~~ nonprofits, and the commissioners of Commerce, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, and Revenue regarding concerns and opportunities with freight railroads and related activities.

5. Paragraph 7.a of Executive Order 19-19, as amended by Executive Order 23-05, is amended by the following addition (indicated by underlined text) and deletion (indicated by strikethrough):

    a. The Council must meet at least ~~four~~ two times per year. ~~At least two of the meetings must be in person.~~

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. It will remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

Signed on January 19, 2024.



Tim Walz
Governor

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Filed January 19, 2024
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon