

RESOLUTION NO. 23-\_\_\_\_\_

CITY OF CROSSLAKE  
COUNTY OF CROW WING  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL  
LOON CENTER

WHEREAS, the mission of the National Loon Center is to create a world-class public facility that educates and embraces the study and preservation of our state bird and the on-going effort to conserve and preserve its natural habitat, the Whitefish Chain of Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the National Loon Center enjoys widespread community support, including from the Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, Crosslake Ideal Lions Club, Crosslakers and the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association; and

WHEREAS, the National Loon Center is a major economic contributor to the community of Crosslake, supporting sustainable growth in the areas of tourism and trade while welcoming a projected 150,000 annual visitors; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Justin Eichorn, State Representative Ben Davis, and State Representative Josh Heintzeman are co-authors of SF 1092 and HF 976 seeking state bonding funds of \$8.65 million for a grant to the City of Crosslake to be utilized for site preparation, pre-design, construction, furnishing and equipping of the National Loon Center in the City of Crosslake; and

WHEREAS, the City of Crosslake is also seeking federal funding in the amount of \$2 million through Congressionally Directed Spending requests to U.S. Congressman Pete Stauber, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, and U.S. Senator Tina Smith to fund part of the National Loon Center project; and

WHEREAS, there are no costs to the City of Crosslake or its residents related to this state or federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Crosslake supports seeking state and federal funding for the National Loon Center.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Crosslake supports seeking state bonding funds in the amount of \$8.65 million for the National Loon Center, and requests support from our state legislators for these State bonding funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Crosslake supports seeking federal funding for the National Loon Center in the amount of \$2 million through

Congressionally Directed Spending requests to U.S. Congressman Pete Stauber, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, and U.S Senator Tina Smith, and requests their support of this federal funding.

Adopted by the Crosslake City Council this 22 day of February, 2023.

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Dave Nevin  
Mayor

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Michael R. Lyonais  
City Administrator



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Governor Tim Walz  
Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic  
Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson  
House Speaker Melissa Hortman  
House Minority Leader Lisa Demuth  
Senate Capital Investment Committee Chair Sandy Pappas  
Senate Capital Investment Committee Minority Lead Karin Housley  
House Capital Investment Committee Chair Fue Lee  
House Capital Investment Committee Minority Lead Dean Urdahl

Re: Crosslake and National Loon Center 2023 Bonding Bill Request

February 22, 2023

Dear Governor Walz and Legislative Leaders,

The National Loon Center Foundation (NLC) in Crosslake, Minnesota was established in 2017 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to restoring and protecting loon breeding habitats, promoting responsible recreation where loons thrive, and serving as a national leader in advancing loon and freshwater research and education. Upon its inception, the NLC launched exciting plans to build a world class educational facility and visitor attraction that is projected to welcome 200,000 guests annually. The family-friendly amenity will celebrate and protect the clean lakes that are home to the beloved loon, our state bird and the star subject of the NLC's educational efforts.

**We write in support of HF 976 and SF 1092, which would invest \$8,650,000 in 2023 bonding bill funds to the City of Crosslake to help construct the world class National Loon Center facility.**

The National Loon Center will exemplify sustainable, place-enhancing architectural design principles while inviting the public to enjoy a uniquely immersive loon and freshwater experience designed by industry-leader Dimensional Innovations. The interior of the 15,000-square foot center will highlight the air, land and water environments associated with loons and freshwater ecosystems.

**Timeline:**

- **2019:** the NLC received a \$4 million grant from the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota resources (LCCMR) for the project.
- **2021:** The NLC completed the installation of docks, boardwalks and outdoor exhibits and finished a shoreline restoration project. The work has been coordinated by the architectural and engineering firm Widseth. The NLC also received a \$355,000 grant from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage

Council's Conservation Partners Legacy Program to purchase and permanently preserve a 6-acre parcel of essential loon habitat in Fifty Lakes, MN.

- **2024:** Architectural design and plans for this net zero energy building are underway. The grand opening for the building is anticipated in 2024.

**List of Supporters:**

- Congressman Pete Stauber, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Senator Tina Smith, Former Governor Mark Dayton, Former Congressman Rick Nolan, State Senator Foungh Hawj, State Senator Nick Frentz, State Senator Sandy Pappas, State Senator Justin Eichorn, State Senator Karin Housley, State Representative Sydney Jordan, State Representative Jamie Long, State Representative Josh Heintzeman, State Representative Ben Davis, State Representative Leon Lillie, City of Crosslake, MN, Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce, US Army Corps of Engineers, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's Conservation Partners Legacy Program, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Audubon Minnesota, National Eagle Center, University of Minnesota - Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation, Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation, Whitefish Area Property Owners Association, Pelican Lakes Association, Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District, Pine River Watershed Alliance, Land and Waters Preservation Trust, Gull Chain of Lakes Association, Sourcewell, Initiative Foundation

**Economic Development and Environmental Stewardship:**

- The NLC will be a significant national visitor attraction, infusing millions of dollars into the Minnesota economy in tourism spending as well as design and construction work. It will also bring dozens of valuable, permanent jobs to the local economy.
- The NLC will incorporate diverse educational initiatives to engage many audiences including the Ojibwe tribe and other underrepresented communities in metro and rural Minnesota. Our shared pride in loons and lakes will be reflected in the welcoming nature of the facility and organization.
- Among many renowned attractions and recreation opportunities in northern Minnesota, the NLC will add to the region's appeal as a tourism destination in much the same way that the National Eagle Center has contributed to the economy in southeastern Minnesota. Our state can make good on its promise to promote its natural gifts to the nation.

We ask for your full support of HF 976 and SF 1092, which would invest \$8.65 million toward the National Loon Center project by including it in the State Capital Investment Bill this year. Thank you for your consideration and support of the National Loon Center, which contributes positively toward the economic growth and environmental quality of northern Minnesota. The National Loon Center will be a source of pride for the citizens of Minnesota and a gift to our visitors from across the nation.

Sincerely,

Dave Nevin  
Mayor, City of Crosslake

*The National Loon Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Crosslake, MN. Its mission is to restore and protect loon breeding habitats, promote responsible recreation where loons thrive, and serve as a national leader in loon and freshwater research and education.*



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U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar  
425 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senator Tina Smith  
720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

February 22, 2023

RE: Senate Congressional Spending Request, City of Crosslake and National Loon Center Foundation (NLCF)

Dear Senator Klobuchar and Senator Smith,

The National Loon Center Foundation (NLC) in Crosslake, Minnesota was established in 2017 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to restoring and protecting loon breeding habitats, promoting responsible recreation where loons thrive, and serving as a national leader in advancing loon and freshwater research and education. Upon its inception, the NLC launched exciting plans to build a world class educational facility and visitor attraction that is projected to welcome 200,000 guests annually. The family-friendly amenity will celebrate and protect the clean lakes that are home to the beloved loon, our state bird and the star subject of the NLC's educational efforts. **We sincerely thank you for the letter of support you shared on our behalf in October of 2019.**

Now having made significant progress toward realizing this vision, **the City of Crosslake requests Senate Congressional Directed Spending for \$2,000,000 from the USDA Rural Development, Community Facilities account to help construct the world-class National Loon Center facility.**

The new facility will engage families and visitors from across the country with an immersive exhibit experience spanning three levels and 15,000 square feet.

**Timeline:**

- **2019:** the NLC received a \$4 million grant from the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota resources (LCCMR) for the project.
- **2021:** The NLC completed the installation of docks, boardwalks and outdoor exhibits and finished a shoreline restoration project. The work has been coordinated by the architectural and engineering firm Widseth. The NLC also received a \$355,000 grant from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's Conservation Partners Legacy Program to purchase and permanently preserve a 6-acre parcel of essential loon habitat in Fifty Lakes, MN.
- **2022:** the NLC launched the educational StewardShip program: a free, on-the-water experience that covers freshwater curriculum created in collaboration with the University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. The world-class design firm, Dimensional Innovations, is engaged to lead exhibit design and development.

- **2024:** Architectural design and plans for this net zero energy building are underway. The grand opening for the building is anticipated in 2024.

**List of Supporters:**

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**Economic Development:**

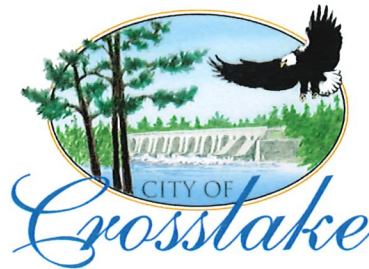
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This investment and your support of this Congressional Directed Spending request will help educate the public as it inspires and entertains guests. It will also connect and amplify loon and freshwater research and conservation efforts occurring across the nation to protect our state bird and symbol of Minnesota's northern wilds. Thank you for your consideration and support of the National Loon Center, which contributes positively toward the economic growth and environmental quality of northern Minnesota and stands as a source of pride for the citizens of Minnesota.

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Dave Nevin  
Mayor  
City of Crosslake





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Congressman Pete Stauber  
Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District  
126 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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Mayor  
City of Crosslake