

October 21, 2025

Baxter City Council  
City of Baxter, Minnesota  
13190 Memorywood Dr.  
Baxter, MN 56425

Dear Mayor Olson and Council Members,

As employers across the Lakes Area, we share the concerns raised by Baxter businesses about MNDOT's proposed "buttonhook" design. While the most direct impacts would fall on those located in Baxter, the economic consequences would be felt throughout the region. Baxter's commercial corridor is a hub that supports jobs, commerce and investment far beyond city limits.

From a regional perspective, we know Baxter's future is tied to our own. Our concerns focus on three areas in particular:

**Economic interconnectedness**

Baxter plays a central role in the Lakes Area economy. If access becomes confusing or less direct, the effect will spread through jobs, supply chains, consumer spending and community investment. Baxter's employers are also our colleagues, suppliers and partners. Their stability matters across the Lakes Area because when they struggle, the impact is felt well beyond city limits.

**Property values and tax base**

If businesses lose access or visibility, commercial property values decline. That would weaken Baxter's tax base and reduces resources for schools, safety, and infrastructure that benefit the entire region.

**Gateway impressions**

Baxter is the front door to the Lakes Area. A complicated interchange risks frustrating visitors and weakening the positive first impression that supports our tourism economy.

The Brainerd Lakes Chamber's recent survey of more than 70 Baxter businesses underscored these risks. A majority expressed concerns about lost revenue, reduced customer traffic and even the possibility of closure, relocation or sale. These are not just numbers. They represent livelihoods, jobs and investments built over decades.

**We respectfully urge you to withhold municipal consent until MNDOT meaningfully re-engages with the Chamber and local businesses to create a more business-friendly design.**

Thank you for standing up for the long-term interests of the Lakes Area.

Sincerely,

*(See pages 2-3 for signatures)*

**1Eleven Group**  
**371 Furniture and Mattress**  
**A&W Nisswa**  
**Acorn Home Services**  
**Advantage Home Pros**  
**Alien Engineering**  
**Allegra Brainerd**  
**American Peat Technology**  
**American Solutions**  
**Angell Team - Coldwell Banker Realty**  
**ATEK Access Technologies**  
**Benefit Innovations**  
**Big Axe Brewing Company**  
**BitSculptor**  
**Bobcat of Brainerd**  
**Bolder Painting**  
**Borden, Steinbauer, Krueger & Knudson PA**  
**Brainerd American Legion Post 255**  
**Brainerd Eagles #287**  
**Brainerd Eyecare Center**  
**Brainerd Lakes Area Poker League**  
**Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today**  
**Buffalo Plaid**  
**Bunyan & Babe Roofing**  
**Campfire Bay Resort**  
**Caribbean Beach Tanning & Wellness**  
**Carrie Benson Photography**  
**CJ's Chem-Dry**  
**Close Converse**  
**Clow Stamping Company**  
**Copper Cat Escape Games**  
**Country Fabrics**  
**Cragun's Resort**  
**Crosslake Ace Hardware**  
**Crow Wing County GOP BPOU**  
**Custom Boat Lift Vinyl**  
**Dairy Queen Pequot Lakes**  
**DB Plumbing**  
**Eden Ministry Center**  
**Elevated Surface Cleaning**  
**Extreme Machine**  
**First Impression Print and Design**  
**Fornshell Bus Service**  
**Geo's Paint & Finish**  
**Good Ol' Days Resort**  
**Gull Four Seasons Resort**  
**Hali-Brite**  
**Hanneken Insurance Agency**

**Hudson Magic**  
**Huff Entertainment Solutions**  
**Huntly B Holdings**  
**Hy-Tec Construction**  
**Jacobson Excavating & Landscaping**  
**JAE Enterprises**  
**JR's Restoration**  
**Key Wellness & Aesthetics**  
**Kurilla Real Estate**  
**LakeLady Custom Fishing Rods**  
**Lakeland Contracting**  
**Lakes Area Adventures**  
**Lakes Printing**  
**Leisure Hotels and Resorts**  
**Lonesome Cottage Furniture Company**  
**Lost Lake Lodge Resort**  
**Lundborg Landscape Designs**  
**Maddens Resort**  
**Magnolia Advisors**  
**Maxbotix**  
**McDonald's**  
**Meadowlark Properties**  
**Mickey's Pizza & Subs**  
**Midnight Sun Pools n Spas**  
**Midwest Security and Fire**  
**Miller Construction**  
**Mobile Tire MN**  
**Mueller Electric**  
**Muzzle Blast Media**  
**Neighborhood National Bank**  
**Nex-Gen Painting**  
**Niemeyer's Rugged River Resort**  
**Nisswa Lake Investments**  
**Nisswa Marine**  
**North Country Floral**  
**NorthPoint Aviation**  
**North Star Family Medicine**  
**North Star Fireworks**  
**Northland Cabin Care**  
**Northland Kart Kountry**  
**Nose 2 Tail Dog Training**  
**NXT Door Properties**  
**One Digital**  
**One Life Tattoo**  
**Party Time Rental**  
**PEK Consulting**  
**Penmac Staffing**  
**Pequot Eye Center**

*Pequot Lakes Animal Hospital*  
*Pequot Manufacturing*  
*Performance Foodservice*  
*Pine Shadows*  
*Pleasureland RV Center*  
*Posture Pro Chiropractic*  
*Power Lodge*  
*Primrose Park*  
*Pueringer Investments*  
*Quarterdeck Resort*  
*Randall State Bank*  
*Rising Hope Counseling*  
*Pine Peaks Lodge & Suites*  
*SAS (Sexual Assault Services)*  
*Sharpe Real Estate Services*  
*Sheps on 6th*  
*SkyRun Vacation Rentals Twin Cities*  
*Spaces*  
*Studio Wraps*  
*Sunshine's Summerhouse*  
*TAZ Properties of Brainerd*  
*TCBX*  
*TDA Construction*  
*Technical Construction Solutions*  
*Teddy Bear Sound DJ & Karaoke*  
*The Depot Stores*  
*The Emerald Cottage*  
*The Lakes Recovery*  
*The Learning Ladder*  
*The Office Shop*  
*The Vintage Golf Club*  
*Total Property Care*  
*Tracy Miller Fine Art*  
*Tudor Properties*  
*Uprooted Tree Company*  
*Walberg Properties*  
*Water Wars*  
*Wilderness Point Resort*  
*Wildflower Chocolate*  
*Woods to Water Real Estate*  
*& Vacation Homes*

***(Total of 136 regional businesses and organizations)***