LETTER TEMPLATE TO STATE REP LIZ OLSON,

STATE SENATOR JEN MCEWEN

IN SUPPORT OF SPEED CAMERAS

TO:

rep.liz.olson@house.mn.gov

sen.jennifer.mcewen@senate.mn

Dear Representative Olson & Senator McEwen,

We/I live in the beautiful Park Point neighborhood of the City of Duluth, which lies between Lake Superior and Superior Bay with one main road, Minnesota Avenue. There are numerous sports clubs and children’s activities in the summer including a rowing club, sailing club, community center, and others.  We have thousands of residents, kids, and tourists on foot and biking year-round.

The issue? The speed limit is 30-mph throughout and yet every day we witness vehicles driving well above the speed limit. The beauty of Park Point and its public beach is made dangerous by the frequency of excessively speeding drivers. This makes living here a dangerous proposition anytime we are walking, biking, or even driving on the roads, not to mention the thousands of visitors that come to Park Point annually. Tragic injuries and deaths could be avoided with the passage of the Speed Safety Camera Enforcement Bill (SF2026, HF2098).

The bill would allow cities throughout Minnesota to use radar speed cameras to enforce traffic laws.  Contrary to popular belief, the Minnesota Supreme Court did not determine traffic cameras to be unconstitutional in 2007; it simply indicated that municipalities could not implement traffic cameras without a state law providing consistent guidance throughout the state.  SF2026/HF2098 would provide consistent guidance required. Many other states, including Illinois and Louisiana, have passed similar laws allowing speed and stop-light cameras.

The residents of Park Point, and the Park Point Community Club, have been asking the City of Duluth Police Department to increase the number of patrols and enforcement of traffic laws for the safety of the residents and visitors to the point for years.  However, they do not have enough resources to adequately patrol residential streets for speeders, and other problems such as drug and violence cases take priority over traffic enforcement. Traffic cameras would allow enforcement without taking police department resources.

We have heard the argument that if a vehicle owners’ car is being driven by someone else recklessly, that it is not the owner’s responsibility.  If YOUR car is being used recklessly, you DO have responsibility.  Furthermore, the pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers of Minnesota have a right to not be put at unreasonable risk by speeding drivers.

In summary, please support this bill to give Minnesota law enforcement departments the tools to help keep the citizens and visitors safe from reckless drivers.  We would also like to hear any suggestions you may have for us to further support the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

PARK POINT RESIDENT

EMAIL

PHONE