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Minnesota Unions, Businesses and Organizations Launch *Respect Minnesota*

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Sept 23, 2019

(DULUTH, MN) On September 23, 2019 unions, businesses, organizations, and individuals launched *Respect Minnesota*, a pledge that aims to create common ground and respects the rights of freedom of speech and personal safety.

During the past year, LiUNA Union members have had conversations with a diverse group of organizations and individuals that want to reset the tone on major energy construction projects across Minnesota.

“The Respect Minnesota pledge is committed to helping Minnesotans find common ground on major infrastructure projects. We need to remember that we are first Minnesotans, and we need to respect each other and our state,” shares Dan Olson, Business Manager and International Representative MN/ND of the Laborers International Union of North America in Duluth. “LiUNA is in the process of incorporating the Respect Minnesota pledge with our members to take before they go to work on these infrastructure projects.”

The *Respect Minnesota* pledge:

- I support free speech and a safe environment for everyone.
- I will listen, be inclusive and look for common ground.
- I will respect others, our natural environment, and local communities.
- I will respect the cultural heritage and history of indigenous people.
- I will be accountable for my words and actions and abide by the law.
- Let's move forward together.

The trades have been reaching out to members, local businesses, and fellow union brothers and sisters across Minnesota to introduce *Respect Minnesota* and encourage them to take the pledge. So far, more than 2,500 individuals have signed the pledge from across Minnesota.

“Everyone should be able to go to work in the morning and safely make it home. The Respect Minnesota pledge encourages freedom of speech and a commitment to personal safety,” says Olson. “This pledge to personal safety is essential for our members and the work that they are doing.”

Initial pledge signers include: Laborers District Council of MN/ND; International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49, International Union of Operating Engineers; Pipeliners Local Union 798; International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Jobs for Minnesotans; Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce; River Falls Chamber of Commerce; Itasca County Economic Development Corporation; Minnesota Chamber of Commerce; TwinWest Chamber of Commerce; River Heights Chamber of Commerce; Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce; Saint Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce; Minnesota AgEnergy Alliance; LaValley Industries; Charps LLC; Gordon Construction.

“Jobs for Minnesotans has taken the Respect Minnesota pledge because it is more important than ever to promote civility even as we acknowledge differing views can also be respected,” explains Nancy Norr, the Chair of Jobs for Minnesotans. “Bringing everyone to the table and promoting a safe environment is for everyone’s benefit.

To learn more and add your name to the *Respect Minnesota* pledge, visit www.RespectMinnesota.org.



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