October 18, 2021

Ms. Cathy McLeer
AARP Minnesota State Director
1919 University Ave W, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Ms. McLeer,

On behalf of the city of Duluth, Minnesota, I am pleased to present this letter to symbolize our city's commitment to becoming more age-friendly. Duluth is excited to become a more livable community through AARP's Age-Friendly Community network, promoting its citizens' sustainable health and well-being through all stages of life.

Duluth is located at the westernmost tip of Lake Superior in northeastern Minnesota and serves as a vital urban, academic, and medical hub for the region. Of Duluth's total population of 85,915 people, 21% are over 60 years old.

Currently, several established groups and organizations are collaborating to improve supports, systems, and programs in many areas under the AARP eight domains of livability. These groups may have formed with goals around active transportation, sustainability, dementia-friendly, health equity, housing, food access, resource connections, and more. We view the AARP age-friendly process as bringing a formal focus of our older community members' needs to the existing efforts and spurring new approaches.

Duluth's efforts will be collaboratively led by Ecolibrium3 and Duluth Aging Support with support from the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging. Ecolibrium3 is a deeply embedded community institution in the Duluth area with multi-sector experience and is a trusted organization uniquely qualified to lead these efforts. Duluth Aging Support has a mission to enhance the lives of older adults and caregivers through awareness, advocacy, outreach, and collaborative partnerships. The Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging is the agency designated by the state to address the needs and concerns of all older persons at the regional and local levels in the Arrowhead Region. Participating staff have experience in leading the Dementia Friendly Duluth initiative, the CDC Social Determinants of Health planning process, Duluth Citizens’ Climate Action Plan, and more.

The city of Duluth looks forward to working with AARP and its network of members and volunteers in its efforts.

Sincerely,

Emily Larson
Mayor

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