

December 6, 2021

Dear Members of the DFL State Executive Committee & State Central Committee,

I am writing in full support for the recognition of the Democratic Socialist Caucus as a Community Outreach Organization of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party.

In the last election, I was one of an unprecedented number of DFL and democratic socialist-identifying candidates across the state who ran for and gained office. This demonstrates a rising interest in the values and policies of democratic socialists by people within the DFL, as well as the engagement of those who may not otherwise involve themselves with DFL politics. It was a point of pride for me in running for state senate—that as someone who considers herself both a democratic socialist and a DFLer, that those values are reflected and shared by so many of my neighbors and constituents. (I won my election 68% to 32% in the general, by more than my DFL predecessor had in the previous cycle—who did not identify as a democratic socialist, and I had successfully challenged this predecessor in the primary, winning 74% to 26%.)

As you know, the DFL itself is the product of a political coalition between the more conservative Democratic Party and the more progressive, socialist-oriented Farmer-Labor Party, from which a number of Minnesota state senators and representatives, several U.S. Representatives, three Minnesota Governors and four U.S. Senators sprang, before the merger of the two parties in 1944. Minnesota, and the DFL in particular, have proud traditions of this type of people-centered democratic-socialist organizing.

As an elected official, it would be incredibly valuable to have a DFL Democratic Socialist Caucus engaged in community organizing and outreach, bringing new (and some more of that Farmer-Labor!) energy into our party. Especially in times like these, where we face an extreme, right wing Republican Party rapidly dragging our nation into fascism, we must encourage a robust, positive, unapologetically people-centered politics to thrive within our DFL. Indeed for the future of our party, our state, and our country, it is essential that we acknowledge and encourage the hard work of the many democratic socialist activists and organizers who already contribute so much to our DFL successes, and welcome the formation of this caucus.

Sincerely,



Jennifer A. McEwen
State Senator
District 7, Duluth