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# BUSINESS

## Nolan meets with local officials

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

Local officials tugged at the ear of their U.S. House representative when he was in International Falls Thursday, in order to keep him in the loop on area business developments.

U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan met with local leaders Thursday, and got an update on the logistics and transportation issues the area is facing, as well as the investment the area is making in transportation, specifically in the foreign trade zone and multimodal district.

Koochiching Economic Development Authority Director Paul Nevanen, Falls Economic Development Authority Director Shawn



Rick Nolan



Paul Nevanen



Shawn Mason

people, he'll keep it on his mind," Nevanen said. "He pledged to work with us on this."

Mason said one idea they brought up to Nolan was working

Mason, Falls City Councilor Cynthia Jaksa, and Falls Administrator Ken Anderson attended the meeting.

Nevanen said the meeting was productive, and a way they could share with Nolan their thoughts on the logistics and transportation efforts in the area. Nolan represents Minnesota's 8th District, and sits on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, so he brings expertise to the topic, Nevanen said.

"We just wanted to raise his awareness about what we're selling here," Nevanen said. "We also wanted to let him know, if he has contacts or thoughts to add to our strategy."

The meeting was less about learning from Nolan, Nevanen said, and more about sharing information with him, so the area is on his mind.

"As he works with other

with Canadian National Railway, and trying to obtain a customer list from railway officials. Many companies use CN and bring products through the area via rail, she said, and continue on to Chicago for warehousing and other services. She said with Nolan's help, they might be able to contact some companies about getting those services here, and not having to go all the way to Chicago.

"We need his help to reach out to them, and there may be some companies that don't need to go to Chicago," Mason said. "It has to stop somewhere, so why not here?"

Nolan was grateful for all the information, Mason said, and will continue to work well to serve the area.

"We have a true advocate in him," Mason said. "There's no doubt he will have this on his mind."

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