



# Республика Карелия **ПЕТРОЗАВОДСК**

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City of Duluth

## **Dear Mayor Ness and the citizens of Duluth!**

I am happy to welcome you on behalf of Petrozavodsk and its people. Our cities have a long-standing history of relations – a unique history, that began back in the Soviet times and became a starting point for many interesting projects, exchanges, friendship ties and family reunions. As a result, today we see Duluth as our natural cooperation partner, regardless of long distances separating our cities.

For many years we found joy and satisfaction in developing different kinds of projects – student exchanges, sports, library work, children's support, to mention a few. All of them contributed to the atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding between our citizens, and created a solid base for expanding our common spheres of interest. I believe that by this time we have successfully reached the point, when our citizens can engage in joint business projects.

Over the past years Petrozavodsk has been putting numerous efforts in creating favorable conditions for small and medium business development. Today over 25% of the City budget is formed by the private companies' income tax. One of priorities in our work is securing positive business environment.

We have a pleasure to invite a delegation of business people from Duluth to visit Petrozavodsk during late May – early June 2010 in order to have a closer acquaintance with our city and business opportunities here. We believe that in today's global world economic contacts are much less depending on geographical location, and our cities can find fields of mutual interest also in this important area.

Petrozavodsk's economic profile is quite diverse: metalworking, wood processing, machine building, IT, tourism, food industry, construction, restaurant business, service sector, etc. We are willing to provide detailed information at your request, as well as take into consideration special interests and needs of your business community.

Hoping to meet you in 2010,

Sincerely,

Mayor of Petrozavodsk

Nikolay Levin