

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

February 21, 2012

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann
103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bachmann:

I want to alert you to the need for immediate action by the United States House of Representatives on S. 1134, which, as you know, is essential to the St. Croix River Crossing Project. If this legislation is not passed by the House and signed into law by March 15, 2012, the Minnesota Department of Transportation will be forced to repurpose the funds now set aside for that project to other priority projects in Minnesota.

This legislation has made progress. Thanks to Senator Amy Klobuchar's leadership, skill, and determination, the Senate passed S. 1134 by unanimous consent agreement on January 23, 2012. Your House version, H.R. 850, passed the House Committee on Natural Resources on October, 5, 2011. I was previously advised that it would be taken up on the House Floor shortly after Congress reconvened in January; however, to date, no action appears to have been taken.

Federal and state appropriations for transportation projects expire, if the funds are not expended on actual projects by certain dates. Originally, MnDOT Commissioner Tom Sorel set November 15, 2011 as the date for federal approval of this project to be completed, so that his department could meet those requirements. At my urging, he extended this deadline.

However, Commissioner Sorel has now informed me that MnDOT must commence its work on the project by this March 15th, in order to complete it within the deadlines for use of those funds. He would be glad to provide you or your staff with additional details, should you desire.

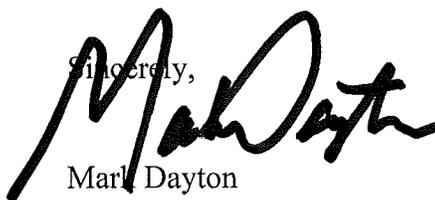
If MnDOT is forced to repurpose the funding for the St. Croix River Crossing Project, the agency will do its utmost, working with local officials and other stakeholders, to develop alternatives for alleviating some of the severe traffic congestion in Stillwater and the surrounding area. Everyone must understand, however, that if the March 15th deadline cannot be met and the federal and state monies are reallocated to other Minnesota transportation projects, there will no longer be sufficient funding available to undertake the St. Croix River Crossing Project in the foreseeable future.

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann
February 21, 2012
Page 2

Furthermore, if new bridge designs or routings are to be considered, the project will have to return to the beginning of the process, with new state and federal environmental impact assessments, new design and engineering studies, etc. Such a restart would most likely consign any new bridge to another decade of debate, with no assurance of a better outcome at the end.

Again, Representative Bachmann, I respectfully request the U.S. House of Representatives to pass this legislation by March 15, 2012. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Al Franken
Senator Ray Vandeveer
Senator Ted Lillie
Representative Matt Dean
Representative Bob Dettmer
Representative Andrea Kieffer
Representative Kathy Lohmer
Mayor Ken Harycki, City of Stillwater
Stillwater City Councilmember Doug Menikheim
Stillwater City Councilmember Micky Cook
Stillwater City Councilmember Jim Roush
Stillwater City Councilmember Michael Polehna
Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce