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UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
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ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE  
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CONGRESSIONAL  
GLOBAL HEALTH CAUCUS,  
CO-FOUNDER

CONGRESSIONAL  
NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS,  
CO-CHAIR

June 1, 2015

The Honorable Mark Dayton  
Governor of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55155-0001

Dear Governor Dayton:

I am appreciative of your commitment and support for state investments in transportation infrastructure. I share your disappointment that neither a bonding nor transportation bill passed during the recently concluded legislative session. Among the immediate consequences for this inaction is that Metro Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit will likely face delays and resulting cost increases from inflation. To avoid these adverse impacts, it is imperative that a capital investment package including \$3 million for the Gold Line be part of the upcoming special session agenda.

As you know, Interstate 94 from Saint Paul to Woodbury is one of the busiest freeway segments in Minnesota. Population and congestion along the corridor are only growing. In spite of increasing usage, few transit options exist and no freeway upgrades are planned. Residents, local business leaders and elected officials have been working hand-in-hand for years to develop and advance the Metro Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project to address these challenges. There is no doubt that implementing frequent, all-day bus service in a dedicated guideway is a smart, cost-effective investment that will benefit our region for generations to come by creating economic opportunities and transportation alternatives for a growing East Metro.

At a projected cost of \$485 million, the Metro Gold Line will require a strong financial partnership between local, state and federal governments. The federal government's share of this project is approximately 45 percent, and I am committed to help secure that funding. Washington and Ramsey counties and all cities along the corridor have been terrific partners from day one. Now we need the legislature to join us with a clear demonstration of their support. We have a roadmap for the Metro Gold Line – it is time to deliver on it.

If the Metro Gold Line does not receive the \$3 million state funding share for “project development” this year, the project will not be accepted into this phase by the Federal Transit Administration. This will delay the project and result in an estimated \$17 million in inflationary costs for each year of delay. Federal matching funds are not available until the “project development” phase is completed.

It is clear that the Metro Gold Line has strong bi-partisan support in the legislature. Among the legislators championing the project are Senators Karin Housley and Susan Kent and Representatives Kelly Fenton and JoAnn Ward who co-authored bills seeking \$3 million in state funding this year. By passing this funding during the special session, the Gold Line can stay on track, on budget and advance to the important "project development" phase.

Your consideration of this request is appreciated. Thank you for your vision and plan to invest in a balanced transportation plan for our metro area and Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

cc:

Chair Adam Duinink, Metropolitan Council  
Washington County Commissioner Lisa Weik, Chair, Gateway Corridor Commission  
Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega  
Senator Susan Kent  
Senator Karin Housley  
Rep. Kelly Fenton  
Rep. JoAnn Ward



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

June 18, 2015

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
US House of Representatives  
2256 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum,

Thank you for your letter supporting state investments in the Metro Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project. I share your support for the project.

As you know, funding for this project and the build out of our entire metropolitan area transit system was included in my comprehensive transportation proposal. Unfortunately, a comprehensive transportation bill did not pass this session. I fought alongside the Senate and House DFL to include funding for the project in the bonding bill, but unfortunately the House GOP leadership opposed including it. Chair Duininck and I are committed to working with local officials on this important segment of our regional transit system.

The support I have seen for the Gateway project this year, from business interests, local officials and legislators alike, has been impressive. Those are exactly the kind of coalitions needed, to advance large transportation projects like this one.

If you have any additional questions, contact Metropolitan Council Chair Adam Duininck at 651-602-1453 or [adam.duininck@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:adam.duininck@metc.state.mn.us) or my Assistant Chief of Staff Joanna Dornfeld at 651-201-3423 or [joanna.dornfeld@state.mn.us](mailto:joanna.dornfeld@state.mn.us).

My best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark".

Mark Dayton  
Governor

cc: Chair Adam Duininck, Metropolitan Council  
Commissioner Lisa Weik, Washington County  
Commissioner Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County  
Senator Susan Kent  
Senator Karin Housley  
Representative Kelly Fenton  
Representative JoAnn Ward