

The Honorable Mark Dayton
Governor, State of Minnesota
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

January 5, 2016

Dear Governor Dayton:

I am writing to offer the full support of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce to your efforts to remedy Minnesota's non-compliance with the federal REAL ID law.

As the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) December 21, 2015, letters to Governor Dayton and Speaker Daudt made clear, "Minnesota has not provided adequate justification for continued noncompliance with REAL ID standards that would warrant granting [the] request for an extension." As a result, "federal agencies may not accept Minnesota driver's licenses and identification cards for official purposes."

The full effect of this, as you well know, is that without legislative action to address the shortcomings of Minnesota's non-compliance, Minnesotans using their state driver's licenses as identification may soon be barred from federally regulated air travel, just as they are already barred from entering military bases and almost all federal facilities. This is an issue that Minnesota's business community has been following very closely, as many of Minnesota's businesses rely upon efficient air travel for their employees or require their employees to regularly access federal facilities or other secure sites.

We are grateful for the work you have done thus far to raise the profile of this issue with your fellow legislators and with the public at large, and we look forward to the work that Senator Dibble and Representative Scott will do to chart a path forward on this issue as part of the Legislative Working Group on REAL ID Compliance. We strongly encourage you to work quickly, in a bi-partisan, bi-cameral way, to resolve this issue before the consequences of inaction wreak havoc on the lives of Minnesotans and the ability of Minnesota's businesses to operate efficiently in today's economy.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We stand ready to support your efforts and your work in any way that we can. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Douglas B. Loon
President

CC: Senator Tom Bakke, Majority Leader
Senator David Hann, Minority Leader
Representative Kurt Daudt, Speaker of the House
Representative Paul Thissen, House Minority Leader
Senator Scott Dibble, Chair, Transportation and Public Safety Budget Division
Representative Peggy Scott, Chair, Civil Law and Data Practices