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Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 11:22 AM
To: Announcements From Representative Bob Barrett
Subject: Legislative Update

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Rep. Bob Barrett 32B - Legislative Update

With High School Page Allison B. from Chisago County. The Minnesota Page Program is a great way for high school juniors to learn more about state government and the legislative process. I encourage eligible students from our community to sign up in the fall. You can learn more about the program [here](#).

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Here is an update from St. Paul.

Chisago County is America's Best

It's an honor to represent the Chisago Lakes area, a national semi-finalist for America's Best Community (ABC). The ABC Competition was created in 2014 and is sponsored by Frontier Communications, Dish Network, The Weather Channel and Co-Bank. You may remember that earlier this year that the Chisago Lakes community, represented by the towns of Chisago City, Lindstrom, Center City, Shafer, Taylors Falls and the surrounding countryside, made it into the semi-finals of the competition.

Along with the honor of being a semi-finalist, they were given \$50,000 to help with the next level of competition and are now competing against 15 other communities in Durham, NC this week to make it into the top eight. More than 350 communities nationwide entered the competition in when it began. The grand prize winner will receive \$3 million.

I am so proud of the work that our incredible Chisago Lakes area team has accomplished in the ABC Competition. More than 100 community leaders have been participating in this initiative from all sectors including business, health care, government and education, as well retirees and even school kids. They have all come together to improve the Chisago Lakes

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Committee Assignments:

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[Higher Education Policy and Finance](#)
[Taxes](#)

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Business:

Education: B.S., accounting, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Elected: 2010

Term: 3rd

Family: Married, spouse Judi, 2 children

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community with a forward looking plan that will help create a new and vibrant future for us all.

I also want to thank Governor Dayton who, with a last minute notice, agreed to participate in a short video to promote the wonderful work our community is doing for the ABC Competition. About 10 or so joined me at the Governor's mansion last week to help with the video and tell him thank you.

I wish the team best of luck as they head into the competition's next phase! People in our community are excited about the progress you're making and how dedicated our community has been since the competition began in 2014. Win or lose, I know that we will accomplish our long-term goals.

For me, and for all of us who call this place home, Chisago County is already America's best place to live.

Survey

My 2016 Legislative Survey is available to take online, giving me another opportunity to gather valuable feedback from my constituents in Chisago County.

To take the survey, just click this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Barrett2016>

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with me. Also, don't forget to share it with your friends and family in District 32B! I will share the results with you soon.

Fantasy Sports Act

More than one million Minnesotans participate in fantasy sports on a regular basis, including many people in Chisago County. It's a cultural phenomenon and to protect those who play the game, the House voted recently to affirm the legality of fantasy sports by a strong bipartisan margin.

The legislation was put into place for a few reasons. First, current law does not specifically layout fantasy sports as lawful, leaving open the possibility that existing language in state statute might mean that participants would be criminally liable. Additionally, some other states have had activist attorneys general move to bar fantasy sports in their state, and this bill would help prevent that from happening here in Minnesota. Finally, the bill implements a number of important consumer protections for Minnesotans participating in fantasy sports.

This was an initiative I was advocating for before session began. You can see a story KSTP did about it [here](#).

Senate DFL Budget Targets and Transportation Spending

Governor Dayton, House Republicans and Senate Democrats have all stated they want a comprehensive transportation bill, so why aren't Democrats focusing more on our shared priority this session?

Last week, the Senate DFL released their proposed budget targets that dedicate less than four percent of our state's \$900 million surplus for transportation. With so little money earmarked for our roads and bridges, it means they want to raise a regressive gas tax increase on Minnesota drivers that rises as the price at the pump increases. Many Chisago County drivers have long commutes every day to and from the metro, and this would hit them hard and take a significant chunk out of their family budget.

Furthermore, Senator Franken and the MET Council recently came out to urge legislators to pass state funding for the Southwest Light Rail this session. The MET Council Transportation Committee estimates that the total cost of this project has grown from \$1.2 billion to \$1.77 billion—a nearly 50 percent increase!

Instead of wasting taxpayer dollars on another light rail boondoggle, we should be focusing on a transportation package that fixes our roads and bridges, something 98 percent of Minnesotans use every day to get to work, school and the grocery store. For the money they want to use to pay for one train in Minneapolis, we could repave six lanes on every interstate, fund four years of Metro Transit bus operations, make a historic investment in new small cities road and bridges and fund local road projects across Minnesota.

If fixing our roads and bridges is really our priority, and a majority of Minnesotans oppose a regressive gas tax increase, then we should be funding infrastructure improvements in a way that makes sense for Minnesotans. The House Republican plan uses taxes Minnesotans are already paying on car parts, auto repairs, vehicle leases, and rental cars and dedicates that revenue through a special fund called the Transportation Stability Fund. By adding in a portion of the \$900 million budget surplus and bonding, this plan would fix 15,500 lane miles of roads and 330 bridges statewide.

Sincerely,

Bob