



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

July 25, 2014

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I would like to express my continued thanks for your partnership with the State of Minnesota in developing and delivering the first of its kind Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program.

Our state-federal partnership has been a model of effective and efficient program management, which is working for Minnesota farmers. Minnesota's growing roster of certified farms is evidence of this success and the achievement of our founding vision: our farms and waters can prosper together.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and other Minnesota agencies have submitted a pre-proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) for \$9.8 million. I can appreciate the strong interest and competition for these resources; however, I urge your strong consideration of this request.

Thank you for your strong leadership and commitment to agriculture and conservation. We look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Dave Frederickson, Commissioner,
Minnesota Department of Agriculture