

Melissa Hortman
State Representative
District 36B
Anoka and Hennepin Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

December 16, 2016

Governor Mark Dayton
State of Minnesota
116 Veterans Service Bldg
20 W 12th St
St Paul MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton,

The House DFL Caucus accepts your proposal to have a special session on December 20th to provide assistance to 121,000 Minnesotans working to secure affordable health care coverage for their families. We had full agreement of all four caucuses on December 2nd on providing this assistance in exactly the form you proposed. There is no reason not to move forward on this issue.

We remain willing to have a special session on December 20th to pass all three proposals you outlined in your December 13th correspondence. Thank you for providing a full written offer for our Caucus to consider. The people of Minnesota deserve to have input on the decisions we make in our democracy, and they can only provide that input and feedback when we make clear to them exactly what is on the table.

We worked throughout the day yesterday to try to assist Speaker Daudt and his staff to come to an agreement on the bonding and tax bills. It is inexcusable to leave that important work unfinished. The bonding bill would create thousands of jobs and the tax bill would provide substantial benefit to working families in Minnesota. These bills are good for Minnesota and there is no good reason not to pass them on December 20th.

I am very disappointed that the House Republicans did not make a written counteroffer to you on your bonding proposal. We can't reach a deal if we don't negotiate, and the House Republicans' failure to engage in negotiations is a dereliction of their duty to the residents of Minnesota. As you know, our bonding lead Representative Alice Hausman and our bonding staff worked incredibly hard to try to find a compromise that Chair Torkelson and Speaker Daudt could accept. Complaining is not the same thing as negotiating, and unfortunately all we have heard from Speaker Daudt is complaints.



Thank you for your leadership. The House DFL Caucus is ready to do this work for the people of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Melissa Hortman

Melissa Hortman
House DFL Leader – Designate

Cc: Representative Kurt Daudt, Speaker of the House
Representative Paul Thissen, House DFL Leader
Senator Tom Bakk, Senate DFL Leader
Senator David Hann, Minority Leader
Senator Paul Gazelka, Majority Leader - Designate