



December 21, 2010

Governor-Elect Mark Dayton  
800 Minnehaha Ave. E., Suite 201  
St. Paul, MN 55106

Dear Governor-Elect Dayton:

As you prepare for your swearing-in ceremony on January 3, 2011, we, the 80 member organizations of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, wanted to take this opportunity to share our thoughts on the critical appointments you will be making to lead your efforts to Protect Minnesota's Future.

First, we want to thank you for your appointment of Thomas K. Sorel as commissioner of the Department of Transportation. We believe Tom Sorel has brought great stability and a new vision to the department and we look forward to working with him to see that vision come to fruition throughout the department. Today's appointment of David Frederickson to head the Department of Agriculture brings new life, direction and integrity to that agency and our members are eager to partner with him to revitalize and support the sustainability of our rural communities and food systems.

Among the many important remaining appointments you will be making, we ask you to pay particular attention to the Departments of Commerce, Health, Natural Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Metropolitan Council.

Our members have joined together to ask that your appointments to these significant posts are consistent with the following principles.

- **Transparent.** Transparency is at the core of a strong, accountable government. Individuals who will head your state agencies should make every effort to conduct business in an open fashion, engaging constituencies that are affected by their departments' actions and seeking their input, ideas, recommendations and feedback.
- **Value community organizations.** Community-based organizations are valuable resources for state government: they bring local relationships, policy expertise, and an "on the ground" understanding of what's working and what's not. It is critical for leadership in state agencies to get out into the state and learn about the real impact of their decisions on people in the state. Community organizations can help to make those connections. State agencies should be led by individuals who seek out and prioritize working relationships with community organizations in the state.
- **Independent of the industries they regulate.** Individuals with regulatory authority cannot do their jobs effectively if they are too close to the industries they regulate. Individuals in leadership positions cannot be part of a "revolving

door” between state agencies and the industry. Industry relationships should be closely scrutinized for any applicants to significant administrative positions.

- **Specific expertise in the area they are appointed to oversee.** Whether they are in charge of agriculture, energy, health, natural resources or pollution control, it is critical that individuals in these leadership positions have expertise and practical experience in their particular area. This is paramount for the future of Minnesota, our public health, and our Great Outdoors.

Our member organizations would be happy to consult with you or your staff on any deliberations you may have in regards to appointments to these top positions to your Administration. Feel free to contact me directly to talk further about these matters, [stevemorse@mepartnership.org](mailto:stevemorse@mepartnership.org) or 612-756-1769, cell.

In addition, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of two recent requests to your office:

1. **Meeting with you or your staff on the MEP 2011 collaborative priority issues**, outlined to you in our November 19 letter to your office. Please feel free to call me directly to schedule that meeting with you or your key staff.
2. **January 5 MEP Annual Legislative Reception and Forum, 6 p.m. at the Town & Country Club.** We have requested that you, Lt. Gov.-Elect Prettner Solon, or someone from your administration speak to our 80 member organizations and Minnesota legislators about your initiatives to protect Minnesota’s Great Outdoors. Again, you may contact me directly about who would be best to represent your administration at this important meeting.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Morse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "M".

Steve Morse  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Environmental Partnership  
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