

Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House



Minnesota House of Representatives

June 2nd, 2016

Governor Mark Dayton
116 Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Governor Dayton,

Thank you for your letter today. I would kindly ask you to re-read my letter from yesterday. I did not accuse you of holding tax relief for farmers, parents, students and small businesses hostage. I simply reminded you that those were your words, and I was letting you know I agree with your position. Here is the excerpt from my letter yesterday with your quotes:

Last week at your press conference you stated: "With the special session, whether or not there's going to be a bonding bill, one of the requirements to do that are matters that are standalone. I'm not going to hold the tax cuts for people or the supplemental budget, the areas that they did fund, I'm not going to hold those hostage to the other considerations. I think the bonding and transportation should be considered and acted on their own merits."

In addition, on May 19 you told reporters: "I made very clear to them [Senate DFL & House Republicans] that this tax bill is half of this package, but it won't suffice for my support on a standalone basis."

One thing that is vital in negotiating these final important issues is making sure that we trust each other completely. In order for us to trust each other, we must make sure that our word is good. You stated very clearly that you wanted the "bonding bill and transportation to be considered and acted on their own merits". I will respect what you said, believe that you meant it and hold you accountable to it.

I have very clearly agreed to remedy your two tax-related requests which will clear up any outstanding issues and allow you to sign that bill as currently written. The drafting error, which is the more urgent of the two, can be temporarily remedied without legislative action. This approach is not new; legislative leaders and governors, including your own administration, have historically worked together to make these adjustments. We commit to this same, standard process to resolve the issue immediately and ensure your signature on the 2016 Omnibus Tax Bill. Once you have done that, we can continue discussions on the issues related to transportation and bonding.

I look forward to meeting with you once you have made a final decision on the 2016 Omnibus Tax Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kurt Daudt".

Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House

