

Paul Thissen
State Representative

District 63A
Richfield and Minneapolis



MINORITY LEADER

Minnesota House of Representatives

January 4, 2012

Representative Kurt Zellers
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator David Senjem
Senate Majority Leader
121 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Speaker Zellers and Majority Leader Senjem:

Citizens on the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) have raised concerns regarding the unilateral dismissal of Susan Thornton as Executive Director of the LCCMR.

In a December 22, 2011, letter to Speaker Zellers, citizen co-chairs Nancy Gibson and Jeffrey Broberg detailed their concern that the Chair and the Director of the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) lack the statutory authority to unilaterally dismiss Ms. Thornton without input and consent from the LCCMR. I understand that they asked that the issue be addressed in a public hearing. To my knowledge, Ms. Gibson and Mr. Broberg have not yet received a response regarding their request.

Since that letter was sent, it is my understanding the LCC has hired an attorney to represent it in this matter. I also understand that Representative Hackbarth is attempting to cancel the LCCMR meeting scheduled for January 10, 2012.

In light of the public attention on the decision to terminate Ms. Thornton, the LCCMR should meet on January 10 to transparently address the questions and concerns raised about Ms. Thornton's termination.

I also request as a member of the LCC that you provide the commission members with information about whether an attorney has, in fact, been hired to represent the LCC and the



anticipated costs and potential outcomes of such litigation. I also request that Senator Senjem convene a meeting of the LCC in the near term to more fully discuss these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Thissen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Paul Thissen
House Minority Leader

CC: Legislative Coordinating Commission Members
Senator Tom Bakk, Senate Minority Leader
Representative Matt Dean, House Majority Leader
Representative Mary Liz Holberg
Representative Morrie Lanning
Representative Tom Tillberry
Senator Michelle Fischbach
Senator Michelle Benson
Senator Gary Dahms
Senator Barb Goodwin