



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

September 16, 2013

Ms. Michele Kelm-Helgen  
Chair  
Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority  
900 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Dear Chair Kelm-Helgen:

I commend the Authority for your expeditious review of the Minnesota Vikings majority owners' finances, following the recent decision and comments by a federal judge in New Jersey. I am encouraged that the Report of Investigation, prepared for you by Dorsey & Whitney LLP, determined the Wilfs possess sufficient resources to fulfill their financial commitments to build and operate the new stadium.

Other recent news stories have described the very significant financial assistance the Wilfs may receive to meet their obligations. One analysis by Minnesota Public Radio concluded that, after subtracting the National Football League's financial participation and the expected revenues from stadium-naming rights and personal seat licenses, the Vikings' owners would need to invest almost none of their own money in the project.

I strongly urge you to negotiate a final financial agreement, which requires the Vikings' owners to provide a significant share of their financial contribution from their own resources, and not

Ms. Michele Kelm-Helgen  
September 16, 2013  
Page 2

from Vikings' fans through the sale of expensive personal seat licenses (a/k/a "stadium builder's licenses").

As you know, 2012 Minnesota Statutes, Section 473J.15, Subd. 14, states, "The authority shall own and retain the exclusive right to sell stadium builder's licenses in the stadium. The authority will retain the NFL team to act as the authority's agent in marketing and selling such licenses."

That exclusive right certainly includes the authority to set the maximum prices, which can be charged for those licenses. While the legislation allows stadium builder's licenses to be a component of the team's financing, those revenues were not intended to replace the need for the team's owners to make a significant equity or capital contribution.

Your financial assessment reportedly shows that the Vikings' owners could finance their share of the stadium's costs with little or no revenues from stadium builder's licenses. Therefore, I strongly urge you to keep those prices at an absolute minimum. I have always said that this building should be a "People's Stadium." Excessive personal seat license fees conflict with that goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "M" and a cursive "Dayton".

Mark Dayton  
Governor