



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

September 23, 2014

The Honorable Jack Dalrymple
Governor
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

Dear Governor Dalrymple:

I am writing to urge you and the other Members of the North Dakota Industrial Commission to quickly establish oil conditioning standards that will decrease the volatility of Bakken oil being exported from North Dakota. Minnesota is one of the primary routes for this highly volatile oil; however, our state receives little direct benefit from its transport. Instead, Minnesotans experience the greatly increased risks in the event of a derailment.

The amount of Bakken crude oil being shipped through Minnesota has increased dramatically since 2009. Currently, hundreds of rail cars on about seven trains, which carry more than 23 million gallons of crude oil, pass through Minnesota every day. These train movements have significant impacts on almost 3.5 million of the state's 5 million residents who live in communities along Bakken oil train routes. We are told that the volume of crude oil being shipped through Minnesota will continue to increase over the next decade.

In Minnesota, we are doing our part to ensure the safety and security of our citizens and the communities in which they live. Last spring, I signed into law comprehensive prevention and emergency response improvements. However, only the State of North Dakota has direct control over the safety of the products being shipped into our state.

I recognize the challenge of regulating an industry that has so rapidly expanded in your state and your obligation to support your state's thriving economy. But not only will conditioning improve the safety of Minnesota residents and those along rail lines, it may also open up additional markets for the export of Bakken oil. The U.S. Commerce Department recently approved two U.S. companies to export crude oil that has been stabilized. These companies are from Texas, which already has stabilization requirements in law.

I appreciate your leadership to ensure that the maximum feasible safety measures are in place for all Minnesota and North Dakota residents, as well as the millions of other U.S. citizens, who live on Bakken oil train routes. If you have any questions, please contact either myself or Joanna Dornfeld, my Senior Policy Advisor, at 651-201-3423, or via email at joanna.dornfeld@state.mn.us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: The Honorable Wayne Stenehjem, Attorney General of North Dakota
The Honorable Doug Goehring, Commissioner, North Dakota Department of Agriculture

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