



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

February 22, 2016

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Perez:

We write to request that the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) expedite the approval of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits for recently laid-off workers for vendors and suppliers to Minnesota's mining industry.

As you know, Minnesota's Iron Range has been severely affected by the global steel market downturn. Since our last letter, we estimate that more than 1,000 additional workers have been affected by a temporary or indefinite layoff announcement (bringing the total to more than 3,000 since these layoffs began).

During this difficult time, TAA benefits have been a lifeline for hundreds of Iron Range mineworkers. Unfortunately, these benefits are not currently available to most of the workers who have been laid off by mining industry vendors and suppliers. Much like their peers employed directly by the mines, foreign steel dumping has left many of these workers at risk of being unable to pay their bills or put food on the table for their families.

We deeply appreciate DOL's response to our request earlier this year to expedite the approval of several previous TAA petitions for mining employers. Given the unprecedented scale of these layoffs, we hope you will be able to offer struggling vendor and supplier workers a similarly prompt notification of TAA coverage. So far, Minnesota has submitted petitions for 32 vendor and supplier companies, affecting 1,350 laid off workers beginning in April 2015. These companies had direct contracts with the following TAA approved mining sites:

- ME Global Petition Number 85695
- Cliffs Mining Petition Number 86065
- Mesabi Nugget Petition Number 86086
- US Steel Petition Number 85796
- Magnetation Petition Numbers 86083/91160

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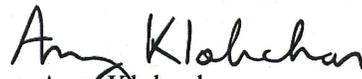
The workers from these downstream vendors and suppliers deserve the same level of service as their neighbors who worked directly for the mining companies. We strongly encourage DOL to quickly approve the petitions covering these workers.

Thank you for your responsiveness and your partnership in assisting Minnesota families adversely affected by unfair trade practices.

Sincerely,



Mark Dayton
Governor
State of Minnesota



Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator
State of Minnesota



Al Franken
U.S. Senator
State of Minnesota



Richard M. Nolan
U.S. Representative
State of Minnesota