



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

September 24, 2014

This summer, Governor Mark Dayton held a series of rail safety meetings in response to increasing statewide oil and freight traffic. On his behalf, I am seeking more comprehensive information about the impact to individual communities.

“In my meetings with local leaders across the state this summer, it became clear that increased traffic on our railways is having real and costly impacts on Minnesota communities,” said Governor Dayton. “This survey will help identify those challenges, and provide a roadmap for the state to address these problems in the 2015 Legislative Session.”

Minnesota relies on rail for freight movement to a greater degree than many other states. Railroads move more than 250 million tons of freight per year through Minnesota – 38% of Minnesota’s freight, measured by weight, moves on rail, versus the national average of 12%.

Railroads have reached their current capacity to efficiently move freight and your residents are feeling the impact of this increased rail traffic first hand. Governor Dayton would like to know the following from each community along Minnesota rail lines:

- What are your community’s biggest challenges related to rail traffic?
- What costs have your community incurred to address the increased rail traffic?
- What additional costs does your community foresee to address the increased rail traffic?

Please follow this link to answer a few brief questions that will inform how the State of Minnesota approaches this complex issue. Thank you, in advance, for your response on or before Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at 651-201-3423, or via email at [Joanna.dornfeld@state.mn.us](mailto:Joanna.dornfeld@state.mn.us), if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joanna Dornfeld  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Office of Governor Mark Dayton and  
Lt. Governor Yvonne Prettner Solon