



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

November 13, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

In 2009, the Minnesota Legislature passed a law which Governor Pawlenty signed, prohibiting the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety from implementing, or planning to implement, REAL ID. As a result, Minnesota's standard driver's license is not REAL ID compliant. Therefore, when the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) begins enforcement of the final phase of REAL ID, our residents will not be able to use their Minnesota issued driver's license to board commercial aircraft. It is my understanding DHS will begin enforcement on or after January 1, 2016.

In March 2015, the Commissioner of Public Safety submitted a letter to the Chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Committees and the authors of the original 2009 legislation summarizing DHS's phased REAL ID implementation plan. In September 2015, my office helped facilitate a meeting between your staff and legislative and business stakeholders in Minnesota to answer questions related to REAL ID and implementation of the federal law. In October 2015, the Department of Public Safety appeared in front of the Minnesota Legislative Commission on Data Practices to provide an overview of REAL ID and answer questions. My office and the Department of Public Safety continue to answer questions and hear concerns from the people of Minnesota and other stakeholders as we wait for your office to announce the timeline for REAL ID compliance enforcement when boarding aircraft.

I respectfully request that you grant Minnesota an extension of time, as was recently provided to Louisiana, New York, and New Hampshire, to allow the Minnesota Legislature to address this issue during the upcoming legislative session, which begins March 8, 2016. I remain committed to working to find a solution to allow Minnesotans to board aircraft in compliance with REAL ID. If you are unable to grant an extension at this time, I request specific guidance as to steps Minnesota would need to take in order to receive an extension.

Sincerely,

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

Mark Dayton  
Governor

cc: Commissioner Ramona Dohman