



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

March 15, 2018

Dear Representatives Torkelson and Smith:

Thank you for your letter regarding our plans to request another REAL ID extension from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) beyond the current deadline of October 10, 2018.

We share the commitment to ensure that Minnesotans are able to board airplanes or enter federal facilities with their Minnesota driver's licenses or identification cards beyond the current October 10, 2018 extension from DHS.

I met with Secretary Nielsen on January 9, 2018 in Washington, D.C. At that time, we discussed Minnesota's progress toward compliance with the federal government's REAL ID requirements. She stated that DHS is not accepting state applications for REAL ID implementation extensions at this time. Since then, the Minnesota Department of Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) received the following communication from DHS:

*"A state that has an extension valid through October 10, 2018, will be given the opportunity to apply for an extension renewal for the October 11, 2018 through October 10, 2019 cycle. As long as the state meets all extension criteria for the 2018-2019 extension cycle, which would include continuing to make significant progress in achieving all remaining REAL ID requirements, and will be issued to the states later this year, then DHS may grant a renewed extension. All extensions are granted at the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security.*

*However, in the case of Minnesota, our understanding, based on information the state provided, is that Minnesota's anticipated date to begin issuing compliant documents is October 1, 2018. Once your state confirms that it has begun issuing compliant documents, DHS will likely grant an extension to provide the necessary time for Minnesota to submit its compliance certification package and for DHS to complete a full review. So long as Minnesota is either compliant or noncompliant with an extension, its state-issued driver's licenses and IDs will continue to be accepted until October 1, 2020, when your residents will then need to have obtained either a REAL ID-compliant driver's license/ID - or an acceptable alternative such as a passport - for accessing federal building, entering nuclear power plants, and boarding commercially-regulated aircraft."*

Minnesota is currently making progress and is on track to meet the Legislature's October 1, 2018 deadline. We will continue to remain in contact with DHS to understand their timelines and requirements for states seeking compliance extensions.

Once DHS begins accepting extension requests again, we will assess our progress and their expectations. If we do request an extension, I expect it will be for the purpose of distributing the new cards throughout the population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mark Dayton  
Governor