



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

July 18, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
Washington DC 20250

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to implore you please to extend the Temporary Protected Status of Somali refugees, many of whom work, raise families, and reside peacefully here in Minnesota. This special designation was first approved by President George H.W. Bush in 1991 and has since been extended 22 times under succeeding Presidents. During almost three decades, these Somali refugees have married American citizens; produced children, who are also American citizens; built successful businesses; and contributed in many ways to our state's diverse and successful culture.

Contrary to some published reports, there is no immigration "disaster" taking place in Minnesota. In fact, our immigrant communities — including Somali-Minnesotans — contribute tremendously to our state's culture, social fabric, and economy. The overwhelming majority of Somali refugees are peaceful and productive people, who have been allowed to make their homes in Minnesota.

Conditions in Somalia are presently so treacherous that the U.S. State Department has issued a travel advisory for the country, warning that violent crime, including kidnapping and murder, are widespread. The Department has even recommended that those who decide to visit Somalia should first make their wills, establish a family member to serve as "points of contact" with potential hostage-takers, and leave DNA samples in case their remains need to be identified.

Under those conditions, it would be horribly "Un-American" to force innocent people to return to Somalia, to break up many of their families, and to forgo their chances to live safe and decent lives.

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
July 18, 2018
Page 2

I ask you, Mr. President, to please extend their Temporary Protected Status.

Sincerely,

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

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Secretary of Homeland Security
Members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation