



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

December 5, 2011

Mr. Mark Froemke
President
Western Minnesota Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO
811 North Broadway
Crookston, Minnesota 56716

Mr. David Berg
President
American Crystal Sugar
101 North Third Street
Moorhead, Minnesota 56560

Dear Mr. Froemke and Mr. Berg:

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to reaffirm your verbal agreement, made to me last Saturday, to resume your contract negotiations at the earliest practical date and to continue them without interruption until an agreement is reached.

As I stated then, I am willing to initiate those negotiations and to remain until their successful conclusion. I will observe from inside your meeting room or wait outside it, whichever the two parties believe would be most helpful to reaching an agreement. While I may not be able to be present for every minute of the discussions, due to my other responsibilities, my representative will be present in my absence and until my return. If both parties are agreeable, I will ask the federal mediator to participate as well.

Tuesday, December 13th, is the earliest I could be in Moorhead to participate in the resumption of the negotiations. Because of the lockout's severe effects on so many people, I urge that they begin no later. I envision their occurring every day and night, from 9:00 am until midnight, until an agreement is reached, although I will defer to the mediator on those details.

I will take the presence of you or your representative(s) at the first meeting as your official and irrevocable agreement that neither party will leave the negotiations, except for food and sleep, until they are concluded with a contract acceptable to both parties, subject to ratification by the union membership.

Since each party questions the other's desire to reach an agreement, I ask, as testimony to your good faith, that you arrive at the first meeting with new or additional proposals or provisions, aimed at meeting the other side's needs and resolving the present impasse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton
Governor