

David J. Tomassoni
State Senator
District 6



Senate

State of Minnesota

January 25, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States Congress
1236 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Congress
322 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

To Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Schumer:

We have been frustrated watching the government shutdown continue into its fifth week, becoming the longest shutdown in our country's history. It's wrong for 800,000 of our citizens to go without pay and stand in line for food banks at the cost of President Trump's attempt to fulfill a campaign promise.

We are a bipartisan delegation from the Iron Range in Minnesota, and we represent taconite mines and the workers who mine them. These mines were the engine that helped us to win two World Wars and build our country's skyscrapers and highways. They were the fuel that fired much of our economic growth through the 20th century and continue to do so today. We are the birthplace of unions and middle class jobs.

We propose a solution that will put these 800,000 employees and many more back to work. If President Trump wants \$5.7 billion for a wall (or a barrier, or steel slats, or enhanced fencing) let's build it and build it with **AMERICAN MADE STEEL**. The president takes credit for putting our steel industry back to work with the tariffs so building the wall with American made steel and project labor agreements will add to his claim. But that's not all we should do. Any agreement should be a comprehensive approach that addresses border security, critical infrastructure, and a permanent solution for Dreamers.

The compromise should be:

- Build an enhanced barrier only as part of a \$1 trillion infrastructure investment to rebuild America with 80% Federal and 20% State funding all with **AMERICAN MADE STEEL**. While President Trump has touted the job-creating opportunity building a wall would be, the biggest jobs program would come from a major investment in public works projects.
- It's time that we modernize and upgrade our country's infrastructure whether it's our roads, bridges, or other vital infrastructure needs. This investment would create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs and give a shot in the arm to our economy in the short and long-term. We've kicked the can down the road for too long and now is the time for us to re-invest in this area.



- Allow DACA recipients to become permanent residents and provide them with an expedited path to citizenship. DACA recipients are teachers, doctors, nurses, soldiers, engineers and vital to our communities and our country. Through no fault of their own, they are in a legal grey area that we can finally address. They will be an important part of a badly needed workforce of the future.
- The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy estimates that DACA recipients in Minnesota contribute \$15 million in state and local taxes. This number jumps to \$19 million if DACA recipients were granted a pathway to citizenship.
- Research from the Center for American Progress estimates that ending the DACA program would cost Minnesota an estimated \$377 million in annual GDP.
- Research from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy shows that DACA recipients pay an estimated \$2 billion each year in state and local taxes. Extending a path to citizenship for these immigrants would increase this contribution to \$2.53 billion each year.

In this compromise proposal, Trump gets his wall, Democrats finally solve DACA, government workers go back to work and the American people get badly needed infrastructure and **jobs, jobs, jobs**. Everyone wins. You take the wall off the table for future negotiations, you take Dreamers off the table, you take government shutdown off the table and Congress can get back to finally doing the work of the American people. We shouldn't play politics with the lives of people living paycheck-to-paycheck. It's totally unacceptable for this shutdown to continue and for people to go without pay. We must come together and put an end to these games. Let's put the needs of our country first and get back to work.

Sincerely,



David J. Tomassoni
State Senator



Justin Eichorn
State Senator



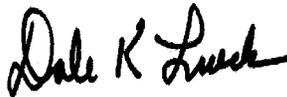
David Lislegard
State Representative



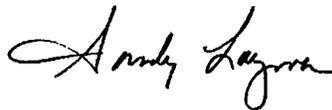
Rob Ecklund
State Representative



Julie Sandstede
State Representative



Dale Lueck
State Representative



Sandy Layman
State Representative

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cc: MN Congressional Delegation