



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARK DAYTON
MINNESOTA

February 28, 2006

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

I apologize to you and the people of South Dakota for my inappropriate remark, as reported in *FORTUNE Magazine*. The reason I have spoken so forcefully against this project is because of the damage it will do to Rochester, Minnesota, and its premier institution, The Mayo Clinic. Your former client has been beyond irresponsible in his unwillingness to find an acceptable solution.

The Mayo Clinic is of inestimable value to my State of Minnesota. However, I had no cause to make a comparison with the also-inestimable value of the great State of South Dakota.

Again, I apologize for my remark.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mark Dayton