

Blake, Cumah (GOV)

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Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 5:52 PM
To: Mark Dayton; Smith, Tina (GOV)
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Subject: Communications Update - April 30, 2015
Attachments: 2015_05_01_duininck_profile_interview_star_tribune_bio_release.docx

Communications Update

April 30, 2015

PRESS UPDATES

DUININCK BIO – Per your request, attached is a bio of Adam Duininck. We have also included the news release issued when you made your appointment of Adam. In their reporting for Adam's profile, they asked him today if the Governor had appointed him chair so the he could to put an end to Southwest LRT. Duininck rejected that rumor – pointing out all the time in effort that had already been put into the project. The reporter plans to interview a few more people for the story.

AGENCY UPDATES

ROTHMAN INTERVIEW – Following his confirmation hearing today, Commerce Commissioner Rothman spoke with MPR and the Associated Press. The commissioner told the reporters that he wasn't worried about the hearing or the full Senate vote. When asked, the commissioner also said he was confident in handling Community Action of Minneapolis and PreferredOne.

MEDICAID FRAUD PREVENTION – DHS spoke with the Star Tribune today for a story about Medicaid provider fraud prevention efforts, including recoveries and recently initiated screening visits for providers. The reporter interviewed DHS Inspector General Jerry Kerber earlier this week. We expect the story to be favorable.

FOUR DAY SCHOOL WEEKS – Today, MDE talked with MPR and Bemidji Pioneer about the five districts that were approved for four-day weeks. The agency said the districts were approved for one year, because of the uncertainty of the outcome of proposed legislation related to Flexible Learning Year (FLY) programs. They also said that this decision does not reflect a shift in policy; rather, because of the active discussion in the Legislature to make the approval of these calendars a local decision, approving them at this time was a practical necessity in order for districts to make plans for this fall.

MET COUNCIL DAILY CIRCUIT APPEARANCE – Tomorrow, Libby Starling the Met Council housing program manager will be on MPR's Daily Circuit to talk about the council's housing policy plan and the proposed amendment that would address the distribution of affordable housing. This is a follow-up to MPR segment on Tuesday about affordable housing that included local officials, but no one from the council.

HOUSE HHS FISCAL NOTE – MMB spoke with MPR today about the fiscal note for the House Health and Human Services omnibus bill. The agency declined to speculate on how Rep. Dean calculated the \$300 million savings in his bill. MMB did explain to the reporter how they calculated the \$16 million in savings found the fiscal note.

INFANT MORTALITY PLAN – As planned, MDH released their infant mortality reduction plan today. The plan that calls for improving the state's infant mortality rate with a stronger focus on reducing disparities across racial and ethnic groups.

NEWS CLIPS

MPR – Senators want provisions removed from enviro bill

<http://blogs.mprnews.org/capitol-view/2015/04/senators-want-provisions-removed-from-enviro-bill/>

MPR – Burning question on budget talks: Where do we sit?

<http://blogs.mprnews.org/capitol-view/2015/04/bakk-readies-office-for-deal-making/>

Pioneer Press – Oil train safety through Twin Cities considered at Capitol

http://www.twincities.com/transportation/ci_28022273/oil-train-safety-through-twin-cities-considered-at

Pioneer Press – Building Minnesota United stadium 'very difficult' without tax relief, owner says

http://www.twincities.com/sports/ci_28021845/minnesota-united-owner-building-stadium-would-be-very

AP – GOP senators grill commissioner over MNsure, nonprofit woes

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/apr/30/gop-senators-grill-commissioner-over-mnsure-nonpro/>

Pierce County Herald – Hopes rekindled for tax reciprocity issue

<http://www.piercecountyherald.com/news/government/3734928-hopes-rekindled-tax-reciprocity-issue>

Bloomberg – U.S. Bird Flu Claims 5.5 Million More Chickens at Iowa Egg Farm

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-04-30/iowa-reports-probable-bird-flu-at-operation-of-5-5-mln-egg-hens>

Post Bulletin – DMC Corp. board approves first two DMC projects

http://www.postbulletin.com/business/dmc-corp-board-approves-first-two-dmc-projects/article_8c653699-3be1-5dab-ba50-1256cbd936of.html