

June 15, 2012

Councilmember Dave Thune
310-B City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd, West
St. Paul, MN 55102

sent via fax 651-266-8574

CM Thune,

Last year in May 2011 we were disappointed by the Council's decision to grant the waiver for the Cossetta Project in regards to the living wage provision. You are well aware of my anger over the matter and if CM Carter hadn't moved language in regards to requiring some of the jobs being covered- Cossetta would have been given a free lunch. We are convinced Cossetta had no intention of adhering to the standard at all and his displeasure was evident. You did what you felt you had to do and it was once again a sad day that you pitted service workers against the building trade folks who got prevailing wage for the project.

You did publicly state that the project would be held to all other standards, which included the green building standards along with the environmental requirements (flow), and the outreach to minority vendors. To this day I doubt if a minority outreach plan was ever filed and I hope you would follow up on that matter.

Now is the time to hold Cossetta accountable for the environmental standards and not grant the appeal. No doubt Cossetta is portraying himself as the victim of "over-regulation", but as I recall he voluntarily applied for the subsidy. If the appeal is granted it will set aside some very good standards when every developer wants a pass on, "bothersome" regulation.

From what we have read it appears Cossetta has picked the most expensive solution to the problem and also has sat on the issue until nearly completing the construction to force the Council into a corner.

Please be true to your word and deny the appeal, and hold the project to the standards which make St. Paul a responsible steward in protecting our natural resources.

Respectfully,

Bernie Hesse, 1189 UFCW