



South Eastern Minnesota, Building and Construction Trades Council

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President
Wesley J. Urevig

Date September 21, 2009

Honorable Ardell Brede
Mayor
City of Rochester
Rochester City Hall

Dear Mayor Brede,

We at the Southeastern Minnesota Building and Construction Trades are excited at the prospect of the Mayo Civic Center expansion soon becoming a reality. Southern Minnesota's economy will surely see a positive effect should this expansion go forward. The additional capacity as a result of this expansion to the Mayo Civic Center would certainly make it capable of handling larger conventions and capitalize on the ones that are now being turned away.

With Rochester and the Mayo Clinic already accounting for a large part of Minnesota's economy, this expansion makes good economic sense. It is a solid investment in the future of Minnesota. With the biotechnology industry expansion in Southern Minnesota, surely this larger Mayo Civic Center will become a key component that will add to the viability of this industry in Minnesota.

With construction unemployment in Southern Minnesota between 30 to 40% this project is extremely important to us. I estimate that this project will over a two year period put nearly four hundred construction worker back to work and top out at over a million man hours.

We're hoping that this project and the funding that would be required could be approved in 2010 with construction starting as soon as possible. The local building and trades craft people, local merchants as well as the over all economy of the State of Minnesota would certainly benefit from a project of this scope.

On behalf of the 2,600 union craftspeople of the Southeastern Minnesota Building and Construction Trades, we speak in full support of this project and are excited by the number of construction workers this addition will put back to work.

Please count on us to help in any way we can.

Wesley J. Urevig

President:
Southeastern Minnesota
Building and Construction Trades