

April 16, 2010

**TO: MAFMIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE AND MANAGERS**

FR: MARCUS MARSH, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MANAGER

RE: WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The week was slow on the House and Senate floor.

We are still waiting for the Storm Chaser Bill, H.F. 2060 Representative Phil Sterner (D-Rosemount) to be brought to a vote in the House. It is the same situation for the Department of Commerce Omnibus Bill H.F. 2942 Representative Joe Atkins (D-Inver Grove Heights).

The current slow down in the session is related to two items, House and Senate Legal Council and researchers trying to figure out if Minnesota is getting any money from the Federal Health Care Legislation. Plus, serious behind the scenes negotiations for a new Vikings Stadium.

Once these two items are dealt with the session will adjourn.

The more the Federal Health Care Bill is reviewed the more it appears there is not a quick answer for Legislators on the money question. Legislators have told me understanding and implementing this Federal Bill is a slow process. I did not read the final bill of over 2,400 pages, but I read the first bill that passed the U.S. House of 1,000 pages. One of the things that jumped out to me was how many decisions in that bill were left up to various federal departments, to be appointed commissions or other bureaucrats through the Federal Rule Making process. That is the single biggest concern with this legislation. Minnesota Legislators were hoping for a quick number of \$300 to \$400 hundred million dollars from the Federal Health Care Bill and using that money to show a balanced budget in Minnesota and then be done with budget matters until the next session.

One of the great things MAFMIC did 6 Legislative Sessions ago was push for Rule Making Reform in Minnesota. We were getting numerous rules (which have the same legal force as statutes) pushed by the Commerce Department. Other State Agencies were totally out of control, the Minnesota Department of Health at one point was issuing a new rule every 6 hours.

In any case, the MAFMIC Government Affairs Committee decided we needed to do something in Minnesota. Then Speaker of the House Steve Sviggum agreed and he worked to set up a bi-partisan Legislative Task Force of House and Senate Members

Chaired by Representative Marty Seifert (R-Marshall). The Task Force met over the summer and fall to come up with a legislative proposal for the next session. We testified and worked with this task force. What was passed into law restricts the Rule Making process in Minnesota plus no rule can go into effect until the next Legislative Session is over. The reason is so Legislators can review and if need be veto the proposed rule. Since this legislation passed there has been a big drop in rules being issued by Minnesota State Agencies.

Rumors and proposals are flying around the Capitol as a few key Legislators, Governor Pawlenty and the Vikings owners are trying to reach an agreement in regards to a new Vikings Stadium. At this point it appears to me the odds are at least for a new stadium. I don't know what the public thinks about new stadiums especially in tight economic times but it appears Legislators will come with a bill late in the session with limited public money.

Thank you to everyone who responded in the last week about our Washington Visitation, we have 22 people attending this year.