



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Office of the Mayor**

R.T. Rybak  
Mayor

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January 30, 2013

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress  
2235 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Scott Rigell  
Member of Congress  
418 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress  
2308 Rayburn House Office building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress  
204 Cannon House Office building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Letter of Support for Legislation Targeting Gun Trafficking from R.T. Rybak, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis

As the Mayor of the City of Minneapolis and as the President of the National Conference of Democratic Mayors, I am writing to express my support for the bi-partisan legislation you have offered to combat gun trafficking in our country.

We must make illegal gun trafficking a federal crime, with real penalties for so-called “straw purchasers” who knowingly buy guns for people who are legally barred from doing so. Current law on this issue has proven inadequate, with penalties not amounting to much more than a slap on the wrist. This allows some of our most violent offenders ready access to guns that quickly find their way to our communities.

Law enforcement agencies from across the country, including the Minneapolis Police Department, have called on Congress to act swiftly and decisively to pass legislation with a strong prohibition on the trafficking of illegal guns and “straw purchasing.” Now is the time to act.



We have seen far too much gun violence in Minneapolis over the past several years, but we have met tragedy with action of many different kinds, and much hard work is underway here on many fronts. We do not despair, as too many do, that “nothing ever happens” when it comes to ending gun violence; rather, we are resolved to finishing the work. The bill you are offering is a welcome and necessary step forward, and I am pleased to support it.

I thank you for your leadership on the vital issue of illegal gun trafficking and am grateful and honored to be a partner in our shared efforts to create safer communities throughout the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Rybak', written in a cursive style.

Mayor R.T. Rybak  
City of Minneapolis