



June 30, 2006

Dear Friends:

The Met Council vote this week affirming a light rail transit line along University Avenue is another major step toward the vision of a comprehensive Metropolitan transit system. Beginning at St. Paul's Union Depot transit hub and ending in Minneapolis, the Central Corridor will be a vital link between the Twin Cities. This system must be cost effective and meet the needs of East Metro residents. The design and engineering process must now be allowed to continue as scheduled with a full and open dialogue among all partners. Any political proposal that would sever the Union Depot from the Central Corridor, as some on the Met Council have suggested, would relegate St. Paul to a spoke instead of a hub, undermining the integrity of the entire transit system.



*Rep. McCollum addresses United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture observance at the State Capitol.*

On Monday, I had the opportunity to address a group at the State Capitol observing the *United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture* about my support for the *Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act* (H.R. 2017). The Minnesota-based Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) organized the event as part of its work to heal the wounds of government-sponsored torture and to stop its practice worldwide, including the use of torture and degrading treatment from Guantanamo Bay to Abu Ghraib prison. Read the full text of [my speech to survivors of torture and CVT members dedicated to enforcing the international ban on torture – without excuses and without exceptions.](#)

Sincerely,



Congresswoman Betty McCollum  
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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