



July 21, 2006

Dear Friends:

This week, President Bush used his first ever veto to extinguish the hopes of millions of Americans who are seeking cures for chronic and life-threatening diseases. Despite the overwhelming margin of passage of the *Stem Cell Research and Enhancement Act* (H.R. 810) by both the U.S. House and the Senate, the president vetoed the legislation, taking our nation a step backward in of medical advancement and scientific research. Unfortunately, President Bush chose right wing politics over the concerns of families, scientists, universities, and patients. We deserve a new direction for America that makes quality health care a priority over divisive partisanship. Read [my full statement on the veto override of the \*Stem Cell Research and Enhancement Act\* \(H.R. 810\)](#).

This week I also took a stand against a pork barrel project that is rife with risk, is a sham deal for the American taxpayer, and which threatens one of Minnesota's greatest resources—the Mayo Clinic. The Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern (DM&E) Railroad is seeking a massive federal government-sponsored loan of \$2,500,000,000 to expand its railroad, which has one of the worst safety records in America. This expansion would bring mile-long coal trains through the heart of Rochester, Minnesota, which even Mayo officials believe would jeopardize patient safety at their facility. Read [my full statement for the \*Congressional Record\* against this proposed corporate handout to DM&E Railroad](#).

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum  
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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