## Steven Sviggum Speaker of the House

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District 28B Dodge, Goodhue, Olmsted, Steele and Waseca Counties



## Minnesota House of Representatives

November 2, 2001

Allan II. (Bud) Selig, Commissioner The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball 245 Park Avenue, 31st floor New York, NY 10167

Carl Pohlad Minnesota Twins Metrodome 34 Kirby Puckett Place Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Commissioner Selig and Mr. Pohlad:

Recent news reports have indicated the Major League Baseball Commission will be considering a decision to reduce the number of major league baseball franchises and that such a contraction process may involve the Montreal Expos and the Minnesota Twins.

As you may know, Governor Ventura and the Minnesom Legislature plan to announce a task force which will attempt to establish a set of principles or criteria, including private investment options, for the Legislature to use when evaluating any proposed stadium legislation. The appointments to that task force are nearly finalized, and we are poised to make a public announcement of the task force members shortly. That task force will need some time to deliherate and complete its work and report to the Legislature.

In addition to the work of the task force, the current international crisis and economic conditions are not conducive to a debate regarding professional sports stadiums. We helieve such a debate would be more properly considered at some point in the future.

We believe the Minnesota Twins' franchise is a valuable community asset. As you know, however, the government's role in those efforts is the subject of significant controversy. Nonetheless, we

pledge to work constructively to find a potential solution.

With all of these factors in mind, we respectfully request that Major League Baseball and the owners of the Minnesota Twins delay any decision regarding contraction until the task force can complete its work and issues of higher national and state priority can be addressed.

Please feel free to call us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Steve Sviggum

Speaker of the House

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Senate Majority Leader