

# OPINION

OUR VIEW

## Local projects on target

Gov. Mark Dayton's bonding proposal is a good start to the 2014 Legislative session.

Two of three local projects seeking bonding money were included in the governor's proposal. But, as both the governor and International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson acknowledged, this is just the first hurdle we have jumped toward seeing the cash.

The next step is to convince the House and Senate to include funding for the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project and the Falls International Airport in their bills. The state Constitution requires a 60 percent supermajority in both houses of the Legislature to enact a bonding bill, which means 41 votes in the Senate, and 81 in the House.

Dayton clearly understands the need for an economic boost in Borderland and these two projects would certainly be a good start. He said it's even more critical we have a full-service airport and we continue to use Voyageurs National Park to draw tourists to the area with the loss of jobs last year at the local paper mill.

The governor said he gave priority to many projects that have been delayed for several years and for which the bonding

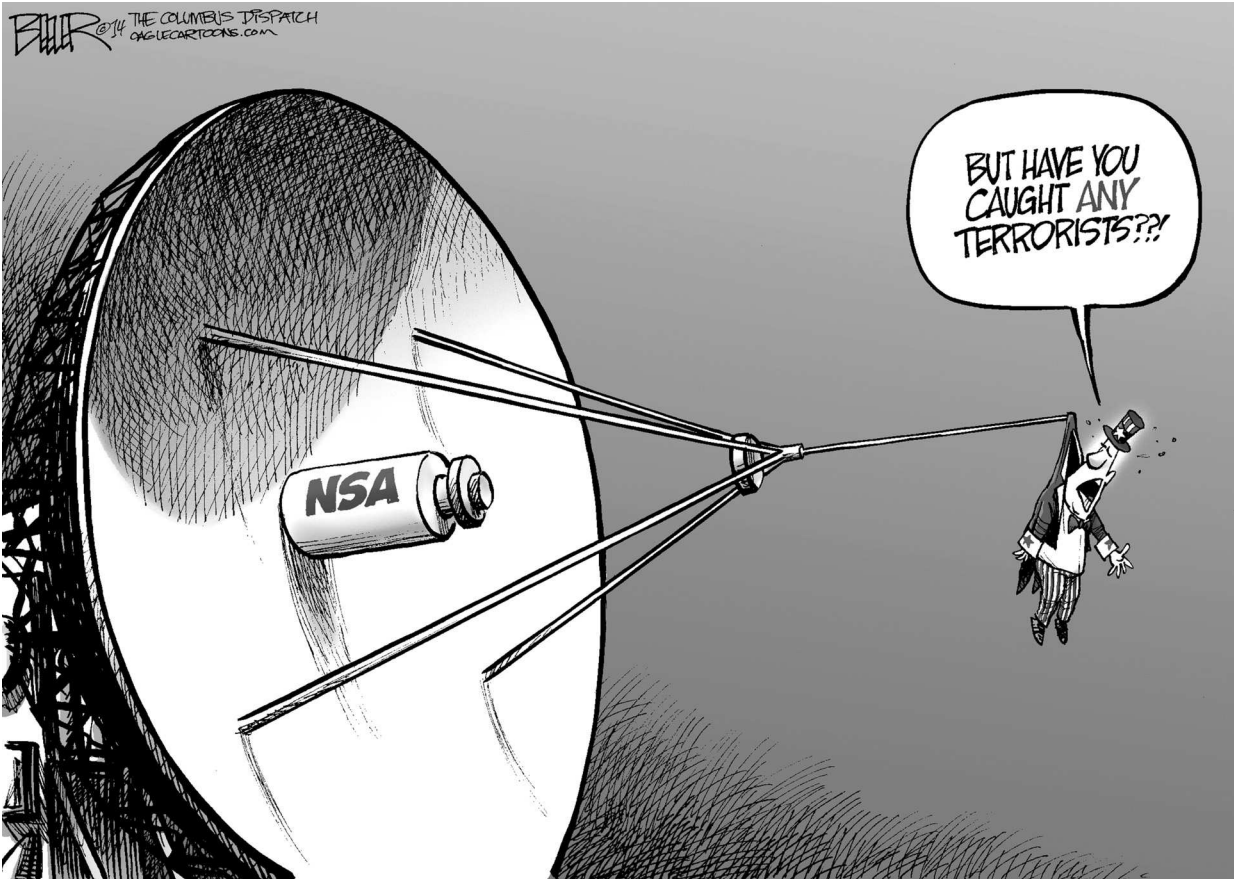
money would provide meaningful progress. The money Dayton has earmarked in his plan for these projects would do that.

Dayton calls this his new jobs bill and said it would help address many of the state's critical infrastructure needs, while strengthening Minnesota's economy and getting people back to work. Again, construction of a new airport terminal and sewer systems around the park would do that in our community.

Would it have been nice for other projects that could economically impact our region — the Renewable Energy Clean Air Project and Northeast Regional Corrections — to be included in the governor's bill? Certainly. But as Dayton said, there were \$3 billion in requests and the state just doesn't have the resources to bond for all the good projects seeking money.

Kudos to Dayton for seeing the benefits of including these two local projects in his proposal. We know they have the support of our local lawmakers Sen. Tom Bakk and Rep. David Dill. They may include money for the other projects that could provide a boost to us in their yet-to-be-drafted bills.

The real work at St. Paul begins now as Bakk, Dill and Dayton attempt to keep our projects on target for money.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Treaty should be rejected

**To the editor,**

Many Americans have expressed concern over the Obama administration's favor of the United Nation's Arms Trade Treaty. And rightly so. Secretary of State (John) Kerry has signed on for the United States in his capacity, but any treaty that binds the United States has to have two-thirds approval of the U. S. Senate, which does not seem likely.

In reading the treaty, many types of arms would be severely restricted in the import and export trade. Weapons range from battle tanks to warships. It is the inclusion of small arms and light weapons that has the attention of people with those type of armaments for hunting, sport shooting and self-defense.

Backers of the treaty will try to assure law abiding gun owners there is nothing to fear concerning our God-given Second Amendment rights. They emphasize the treaty strictly deals with imports and exports. Supporters also point to the preamble which states that nations can control and regulate arms according to their legal and constitutional system. Portions of the treaty

do give assurances that our Second Amendment rights are safe and secure, but close reading of the treaty shows how diabolical the whole thing is.

The stringent export and import regulations bring problems. The weapons themselves, parts and components, and ammunition are to be restricted in nation to nation trade. This will affect gun owners, manufacturers and dealers as the items are all part of international trade. We can manufacture all our needs here in the good old USA.

I do not fall for the false assurances that Second Amendment rights will be respected. "National control systems" and "lists" under the control of the treaty secretariat must be established in each nation to control small arms, parts and components and ammunition. National control measures in Article 9 of the treaty shows the dangers gun owners face. To enforce provisions of the treaty "competent national authorities" are to be designated in member nations to ensure implementation

of the treaty. I can see Sens. (Charles) Schumer and (Dianne) Feinstein serving. Nations are allowed to report treaty "violations." "Brokers," which could refer to gun show activity, fall under severe control. Article 12 tells of how records must be kept to the "final destination." This is a national record of all gun owners and what they own. Articles 17 and 18 relates to the bloated bureaucracies and budgets that will be created.

Apologists must realize it is not in the best interest of gun owners here in the U.S. to support the treaty. Deluded people will defend Sens. (Al) Franken and (Amy) Klobuchar for their support to such a reprehensible act.

There is a large sculpture on the United Nations Plaza in New York City of a revolver with its barrel tied in a knot. This type of gun is extremely commonplace in the U.S. That reinforces my long-time view for our country to quit funding our one-quarter share of the U.N. budget and ultimately force them from our shores.

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