

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

June 3, 2014

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

Minnesota is home to the country's largest Norwegian-American community, and I have heard broad and deep concern from the community about the administration's nominee to be Ambassador to Norway, Mr. George J. Tsunis. On the basis of my constituents' concerns about Mr. Tsunis' ability to serve effectively as our nation's ambassador, I am writing to inform you that I oppose his nomination and will vote against confirmation should it come up for a vote.

The United States and Norway share strong political, economic, security, and cultural ties, reflecting our longstanding relationship, our shared ideals and interests, and the large community of Americans with Norwegian ancestry. The U.S. ambassador to Norway plays a very important role in sustaining and strengthening those ties, and we need someone who will be effective in that role. What I have heard from Minnesotans is that Mr. Tsunis' performance at his confirmation hearing and the controversy that followed it will make it impossible for him to serve effectively as our ambassador to Norway. Many Minnesotans have expressed concern that Mr. Tsunis' remarks during the hearing have deeply damaged his credibility with the government of Norway, the people of Norway, and the American people.

We should not do anything that might unnecessarily damage our strong relationship with Norway – a relationship that I am committed to sustaining and strengthening in the years to come. Therefore, I cannot support Mr. Tsunis to be our ambassador to Norway. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator