



November 28, 2012

Gary Bettman  
NHL Commissioner  
1251 Avenue of the Americas  
47<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 1002-1104

Dear Commissioner Bettman,

It is with great disappointment on behalf of my company, Eagle Street Grille and my employees, that I write to you today of the difficult decisions that I've made during the current NHL lockout.

I've had the great opportunity to own and operate the Eagle Street Grille in St. Paul, Minnesota for the last ten years. Eagle Street has benefited from the strong fan support of the Minnesota Wild and the many world-class events that have been held at the Xcel Energy Center. The Eagle Street Grille is located directly across the street from the Xcel Energy Center and the hockey season is crucial to the success of our operation.

Minnesota Wild game nights account for over 50% of our gross revenue annually and are a driving factor in our strategic business decisions. I monitor the negotiations between the league and the players union daily and have been forced to make some tough choices this past week. I had to look 32 out of 48 employees in the eyes and inform them that I no longer can afford to keep them on staff.

Hockey in Minnesota is part of our culture and we will always love this sport that plays an important part of our childhood memories. Unfortunately, the longer this lockout continues, Minnesotans will be reluctant to return to levels of economic support that they have consistently shown over the years. I fear that corporate sponsorships and season ticket holders will not return with the same financial interest.

Every summer Eagle Street Grille sponsors a golf tournament for Section 108 – a charity event committed to raising money for Minnesota Special Hockey. We've been able to raise \$11,000 annually for this great cause over the past 5 years. It is going to be difficult to reach this goal in 2013 as my corporate sponsors will not be benefiting from the 2012-2013 hockey season. Ultimately, the kids lose and it breaks my heart.

While Eagle Street is one business, there are dozens of restaurants that surround the arena; they too have been forced to make difficult financial decisions due to the lockout. The impact on our lives is immeasurable. One city's devastation may not seem like a powerful incentive to end the lockout; but I know this is happening in other cities around the nation. Together, potentially thousands of families and businesses are being affected. I urge you to find an immediate winnable solution for the fans, our staff, and the small business owners that support the NHL.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JK', enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Joe Kasel,  
Eagle Street Grille

CC: Donald Fehr, Executive Director, NHL Players Association