

Lawrence J. Pogemiller
Senate Majority Leader

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Senate

State of Minnesota

July 1, 2009

WCCO News Radio 830
Attn: Mick Anselmo, SVP Market Manager
625 Second Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Dear Mr. Anselmo,

As you know, your station has provided Governor Pawlenty with unfettered and unanswered access to the public's airwaves on a weekly basis for a period of years. In recent months your station has decided to not only continue but expand this unfair practice by using the Governor as a fill-in host for extended periods of time. Occasionally affording some airtime to someone from the opposing party is not sufficient to counterbalance the Governor's partisan messages and ongoing cultivation of his public persona.

Often the Governor misrepresents the positions of his opponents. As recently as June 19, the Governor deliberately overstated what was at issue in raising revenue to balance the state budget. He said,


"And of course we should keep in mind the alternative to these cuts was to allow the other side of the aisle, the DFL to massively raise taxes. Income taxes, business taxes, they had proposals to eliminate the deductions or credits for home mortgage interest, for charitable giving, for childcare, for educational expenses, for organ donation, on alcohol, on cigarettes, the list goes on and on.

The bill the legislature passed and the Governor vetoed would have raised under one billion in ongoing revenue; less than one sixth of the deficit. Certainly not massive, the money raised would have taken the place of the billion dollars the Governor proposed to borrow at a future cost of \$1.8 billion. Coupled with the fact that the legislature cut more than the Governor in the general fund, perhaps the legislature's approach represented a more responsible way to balance the budget. At least this approach should have been explained. Instead, this point of view was not presented at all on your broadcast.



In the interest of fairness and more fully informing your listening public we are requesting your station provide a periodic segment following the Governor's show for lawmakers of the opposing party to provide a different point of view. A publicly licensed station such as yours should be interested in ending the ongoing *monologue* and embrace a *dialogue* of the ideas and issues facing our state.

Sincerely,



Lawrence J. Pogemiller
Senate Majority Leader

cc: Wendy Paulson
Program Director