



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 13, 2009

Majority Leader Larry Pogemiller
Minnesota Senate
235 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Minnesota House
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Majority Leader Pogemiller and Speaker Kelliher:

I am greatly disappointed the DFL majority has passed spending bills and sent them to me without presenting a viable proposal to pay for them. It appears the total general fund spending for FY 2010-2011 authorized by your bills is approximately \$34 billion, while revenues are approximately \$31 billion. In other words, your spending exceeds current projected revenues by approximately \$3 billion. Your approach puts me in the position of evaluating your bills without having a viable plan from you to pay for them.

Before we commit the state to write checks from the public checkbook, I need to know how you intend to cover the \$3 billion hole in your plan noted above. Please keep in mind the tax increases I vetoed last week only generated approximately \$1 billion in revenue.

I remain available to negotiate with you to resolve these serious issues. However, it is imperative for us to have a complete picture of your budget plans. It is time for you to fill in the blanks. Please provide complete information about how you propose to resolve the remaining shortfall in your combined budget plan so I can properly evaluate your spending bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

Sen. Pogemiller/Speaker Kelliher

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cc: Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
Members of the Minnesota Legislature
Commissioner Tom Hanson, Department of Management and Budget