



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

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

February 5, 2010

Senator Larry Pogemiller  
Senate Majority Leader  
235 State Capitol  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher  
Speaker of the House  
463 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Pogemiller and Speaker Kelliher:

The Minnesota Constitution wisely requires that the state's budget be balanced. More than 70 years ago, the legislative and executive branches agreed to provide the governor unallotment authority to help ensure that this constitutional obligation is met.

It is my understanding that some DFL legislators may attempt to repeal or otherwise limit unallotment authority this session. This past legislative session clearly demonstrated the value and necessity of this long-standing budget-balancing tool.

To be clear, I will veto any bill presented to me that attempts to repeal, limit, or in any way reduce executive branch authority to balance the state's budget through executive action, unless such legislation has been previously agreed to by me.

My predecessors, who represented both parties, have exercised the unallotment authority and it is my intent to aggressively protect this ability on behalf of future governors and the people of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Pawlenty", written over a horizontal line.

Tim Pawlenty  
Governor

Cc: Members of the Minnesota Legislature