

Kurt Zellers
State Representative
House Republican Leader

District 32B
Hennepin County



Minnesota House of Representatives

March 11, 2010

Dear Governor Pawlenty,

Our caucus echoes your firm belief in the virtue of fiscal responsibility and the need to stop the reckless spending and misplaced priorities that Minnesota Democrats continually put on your desk. Their agenda will only result in bigger government, at the expense of the private sector. It will not move Minnesota forward toward expanded economic opportunity or restrain the out-of-control growth in government spending.

Nowhere is this more evident than their bloated debt bill. It doesn't just need to slim down, it needs fiscal liposuction. We urge you to use your line-item veto and trim this bill down - not just a little bit, but by several hundred million dollars, with a specific focus on funding for public safety and infrastructure. Line-iteming this bill down to the \$200,000,000 to \$250,000,000 range would preserve the truly critical projects in the bill, and it would also send the clear message to Democrats that they must come to the table and get serious about fiscal responsibility, and then we can talk about another bonding bill down the road. Time and time again you have had to come in and clean up the mess from their spending bills, only to have them vilify you for it in the public's eye. It's time for that game to end.

Ample use of your line-item veto authority on House File 2700 would show recalcitrant Democrats that it is NOT OKAY to whip out the credit card for a sculpture garden, for civic centers, for shade trees and for the rest of their out-of-touch spending. It would force them to come to the table with a bill that cuts the waste, leaving only the real infrastructure projects. For a political party that sustains itself by handing out other people's money, there is no way to let this legislative session end without a bonding bill. Their foot-dragging on balancing the budget shows they have no interest beyond it. We urge you to make them come to the table.

As the 2010 session unfolds, we must remain firm in our position that balancing the budget has to take priority over using the credit card. We must also stand together as a united front to protect Minnesotans from higher taxes and more government spending. When we stand together, we are strong. Minnesotans are depending on us to stay strong, stand up for what is right and provide the leadership they expect when they send us here.

Sincerely,

Members of the House Republican Caucus

