

October 9, 2023

The Honorable Tim Walz Governor of Minnesota 130 State Capitol St. Paul, MN 55155 Erin Campbell Commissioner, Minnesota Management and Budget 658 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55155

via electronic delivery

Dear Governor Walz and Commissioner Campbell,

We are requesting that you halt the proposed remodel and unnecessary expansion of the State Office Building. We urge that you utilize your authority to cease the issuance of bonds for this project, as well as reserve final judgement for any construction contracts. Minnesotans deserve a more robust and public conversation about how their hard-earned money will be spent before proceeding with this proposed construction.

We believe that alternatives to the spending of \$500 million on this project have not been adequately explored. Given the current cost of living crisis that is facing Minnesota families, and the pressing needs for funding critical services statewide, we should be focused on meeting the needs of all Minnesotans, not building a high-end office building.

Considering the expense and cost overruns that have plagued projects in the metro, including Southwest Light Rail and Governor's mansion renovation, it is important that every effort be made to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, the increasing role of remote work in state agencies and in the private sector provides additional alternatives for replacing or complementing the workspace of the State Office Building, which is only fully occupied five months each year. We should have greater public discussion on possible alternatives that the legislature has not had the opportunity to fully investigate. House Leadership failed to consider more cost-effective options including the relocation of staff to existing structures, or the total replacement of the State Office Building.

We ask you not to move forward with the sale of the bonds for the \$500 million renovation of the State Office Building at this time. We should do everything possible to find a more reasonable option and uphold the trust which the people of Minnesota have placed in their government.

Sincerely,

Representative Kristin Robbins

Minority Leader Lisa Demuth

Jua M. Donwich

Representative Pam Altendorf



Representative Jeff Backer



Representative Dave Baker



Representative Brian Daniels



Representative Jeff Dotseth



Representative Mary Franson



Representative Dawn Gillman



Representative Josh Heintzeman



Representative Spencer Igo



Representative Jim Joy



Representative Jon Koznick



Representative Patti Anderson



Representative Ben Bakeberg



Representative John Burkel



Representative Ben Davis



Representative Elliott Engen



Representative Marj Fogelman



Representative Matt Grossell



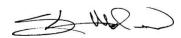
Representative Walter Hudson



Representative Steven Jacob



Representative Krista Knudsen



Representative Shane Mekeland

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Representative Joe McDonald

Thomas M. Murphy

Representative Thomas Murphy

Representative Anne Neu Brindley

Representative Paul Novotny

Representative Bjorn Olson

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Representative Paul Torkelson

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Fatricia K Mueller

Representative Patricia Mueller

Representative Nathan Nelson

Representative Harry Niska

Representative Tim O'Driscoll

Bernie Ferryman

Representative Bernie Perryman

Representative Duane Quam

Representative Peggy Scott

Representative Chris Swedzinski

Representative Mike Wiener

Representative Natalie Zeleznikar