



December 3, 2009

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

Yesterday, Minnesota was presented with its most pressing challenge. Like you, we agree that the \$1.2 billion deficit facing the state during the current biennium is "significant." As you indicated, the sooner we balance our state's budget the more options we will have to protect the basic services that are the engine of Minnesota's economy such as access to health care and a quality education.

The Legislature is ready to begin work immediately. We request that you submit your budget recommendations quickly and advise us when we might expect them. It is critical that the Legislature receive your supplementary budget recommendations as soon as possible in order to begin crafting a balanced budget.

It is apparent that Minnesota has a permanent deficit that will not go away on its own. It is up to us to work together to craft a balanced budget to preserve Minnesota's quality of life, grow jobs and lay the foundation for economic growth.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lyndon Carlson in cursive.

Representative Lyndon Carlson
Finance Committee Chair

Handwritten signature of Senator Richard Cohen in cursive.

Senator Richard Cohen
Finance Committee Chair

Handwritten signature of Loren Solberg in cursive.

Representative Loren Solberg
Ways and Means Committee Chair

Cc: Commissioner Tom Hanson, Minnesota Management and Budget

