

Julie Rosen / Richard Cohen

January 17, 2023

Dear Chairman Marty and Senator Pratt:

As the two immediate past chairs of the Senate Finance Committee we are writing to strongly support the confirmation of James Schowalter as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget.

We have both shared very positive experiences with Jim over his years in state government. That began with his work as State Budget Director beginning in 2004 with the administration of Governor Tim Pawlenty. That continued as Commissioner of Management and Budget first with Governor Mark Dayton in 2011 and later with his appointment to the same position by Governor Tim Walz in 2020.

We were very impressed with his deep knowledge not only of the state budget but his ability to connect the budget to all areas affecting our quality of life. That was coupled with his ability to work in and around the legislative process with transparency and openness for all legislators with solid relationships throughout the Capitol.

It should be noted that in serving under Governor Pawlenty, Governor Dayton, and Governor Walz Jim Schowalter was able to work with all legislators no matter which party was in the majority.

Two significant examples of his skill and work with both sides was first, the 2010 session in which the large deficit budget began. More recently, his leadership during the Covid crisis was handled seamlessly and professionally.

Again, both of us strongly support Mr. Schowalter's confirmation and hope you will act favorably on the Governor's nomination.

Sincerely,



Former State Senator Julie Rosen
Finance Chair, 2017-2022



Former State Senator Richard Cohen
Finance Chair, 2003-2010; 2013-2016