



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Mary Kiffmeyer
Chair
State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee
Minnesota Senate
3103 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Kiffmeyer:

Thank you for coming to meet with us on March 16th to discuss your intended changes to the Governor's Office budget for the next biennium. We did not have details of your plan at that time so were unable to fully respond to your proposals. We have serious concerns that we would like to share with you.

You shared that you were planning on moving all the funds set aside by agencies for the Governor's Office into the General Fund appropriation. You stated that you were fully funding our office's base budget request and you were making this change in order to bring greater transparency and clarity.

Instead, the Senate State Government Omnibus Finance Bill reduces the funding for the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor by over \$300,000 per year, or \$600,000 over the biennium. This directly contradicts your stated intentions and impacts our ability to provide needed services at our current levels of efficiency.

Additionally, you have added language that limits our ability to enter into inter-agency agreements, reduces the Governor's ability to travel on behalf of state agencies and to participate in state events and trade missions. This directly affects our State in reduced revenue for tourism, impacts trade partnerships that adversely affect Minnesota businesses and jeopardizes our partnership with the Norwegian Reciprocal Troop Exchange, the longest-running military exchange partnership between any two nations.

As you know, our Office is audited by the Office on the Legislative Auditor every two years. The OLA reviews all of our inter-agency agreements, as well as all of our expenditures and reimbursements. The Legislature, by contrast, does not follow the same process.

We encourage you to fully fund the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor at our requested level and to remove your restrictions on the Governor's Office ability to accept reimbursement for travel on behalf of the State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,


Jaime Tincher
Chief of Staff


Amanda Simpson
Director of Operations