

**MINNESOTA STATE SENATE**  
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2005 and 2004  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Minnesota State Senate  
State of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets, statements of revenue, expenditures, and change in fund balance – budget to actual, and statements of expenditures of the Minnesota State Senate, State of Minnesota for the years ended June 30, 2005 and 2004. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Senate's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statements presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1B, the financial statements of the Minnesota State Senate, which is a department of the general fund of the State of Minnesota, are intended to present the financial position, and the change in financial position of only that portion of the general fund of the State of Minnesota that is attributable to the transactions of the Minnesota State Senate. They do not purport to and do not present fairly the financial position of the State of Minnesota as of June 30, 2005 and 2004 and the changes in its financial position for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Minnesota State Senate, State of Minnesota as of June 30, 2005 and 2004 and the changes in its financial position for the years ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Minnesota State Senate, State of Minnesota, has not presented the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 20, 2006 on our consideration of the Minnesota State Senate's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audits.

The statistical information listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements of the Minnesota State Senate. The information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

*Sichow Krause & Company, LLP*

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
January 20, 2006

# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

## BALANCE SHEETS June 30, 2005 and 2004

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	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Unliquidated appropriation	\$ 5,380,009	\$ 6,369,543
Prepaid items	<u>-</u>	<u>29,936</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 5,380,009</u>	<u>\$ 6,399,479</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenditures	<u>\$ 783,156</u>	<u>\$ 661,185</u>
Fund Balance		
Reserved	4,596,853	3,728,407
Unreserved - undesignated	<u>-</u>	<u>2,009,887</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>4,596,853</u>	<u>5,738,294</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>\$ 5,380,009</u>	<u>\$ 6,399,479</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**MINNESOTA STATE SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL  
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2005 and 2004

	2005			2004		
	Final Budget	Actual	Variance With Final Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance With Final Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>						
General appropriation	\$ 19,319,000	\$ 19,319,000	\$ -	\$ 19,319,000	\$ 19,319,000	\$ -
Other receipts	-	100,137	100,137	-	115,478	115,478
Total Revenues	<u>19,319,000</u>	<u>19,419,137</u>	<u>100,137</u>	<u>19,319,000</u>	<u>19,434,478</u>	<u>115,478</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
Current						
Salaries and benefits	16,418,811	17,198,598	(779,787)	16,729,454	15,404,653	1,324,801
Services	722,000	987,279	(265,279)	611,000	792,348	(181,348)
Subsistence	1,789,689	1,580,719	208,970	1,600,046	1,340,772	259,274
Furniture, supplies, equipment and capital outlay	<u>388,500</u>	<u>793,982</u>	<u>(405,482)</u>	<u>378,500</u>	<u>297,872</u>	<u>80,628</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>19,319,000</u>	<u>20,560,578</u>	<u>(1,241,578)</u>	<u>19,319,000</u>	<u>17,835,645</u>	<u>1,483,355</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE (EXPENDITURES)</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(1,141,441)</u>	<u>\$ (1,141,441)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>1,598,833</u>	<u>\$ 1,598,833</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE, Beginning of Year</b>		<u>5,738,294</u>			<u>4,139,461</u>	
<b>FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR</b>		<u>\$ 4,596,853</u>			<u>\$ 5,738,294</u>	

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

## STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURES YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2005 and 2004

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
<b>Salaries and Benefits:</b>		
Salaries - senators	\$ 2,115,763	\$ 2,117,599
Salaries - staff	11,132,948	9,812,446
MSRS and FICA, and other benefits	1,668,302	1,474,649
Insurance - staff	1,612,445	1,378,475
Insurance - senators	631,249	578,721
Unemployment compensation	21,354	28,641
Workers' compensation	16,537	14,122
Total Salaries and Benefits	<u>17,198,598</u>	<u>15,404,653</u>
<b>Services:</b>		
Rents, leases and maintenance (includes copy equipment)	194,662	234,954
Employment and publicity advertisement	4,010	-
Furniture and maintenance repairs	30,832	22,331
Maintenance agreements	171,234	189,878
Printing	45,736	26,625
Micrographics	2,191	23
Consultant	45,800	18,563
EDP-ISB	17,611	9,936
EDP-software	39,685	47,064
EDP-development (includes equipment)	392,765	199,438
Dry cleaning/carpet cleaning	343	310
Interns	42,410	43,226
Total Services	<u>987,279</u>	<u>792,348</u>
<b>Subsistence:</b>		
Postage	96,279	97,244
Communication	303,833	203,437
Delivery service	1,613	8,067
Mileage	168,146	164,455
In-state travel/lodging	288,986	294,546
Per diem	680,592	518,214
Registration	20,864	17,728
Out-state travel	9,511	15,267
Tuitions/memberships/admissions/fees	10,895	21,814
Total Subsistence	<u>1,580,719</u>	<u>1,340,772</u>

# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

## STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURES YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2005 and 2004

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	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Furniture, Supplies, Equipment and Capital Outlay:		
Video	\$ 41,623	\$ 22,171
Photographic	8,999	9,220
Furniture and equipment	110,331	14,737
Capital outlay	444,041	96,059
Office supplies/stationery	119,412	96,529
Newspaper and publications	26,652	17,372
Water and coolers	17,504	16,112
Cleaning supplies	160	-
Miscellaneous	<u>25,260</u>	<u>25,672</u>
Total Furniture, Supplies, Equipment and Capital Outlay	<u>793,982</u>	<u>297,872</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 20,560,578</u>	<u>\$ 17,835,645</u>



# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2005 and 2004

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### **NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

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#### ***A. Reporting Entity***

The Minnesota State Senate (Senate) was established in 1858. It consists of 67 members who are elected by Minnesota voters to serve four-year terms making laws of the State of Minnesota (the State) and its people, and proposing amendments to the State constitution.

#### ***B. Basis of Presentation and Basis of Accounting***

The Minnesota State Senate is part of the general fund of the State of Minnesota. The general fund appropriations for the Senate, the use of the appropriations, and the balances of current expendable resources and related current liabilities are reported in the financial statements. Noncurrent assets and liabilities resulting from agency activities are assets and liabilities of the State of Minnesota as a whole and are not included in this report.

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The financial statements of the Minnesota State Senate have been prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to governmental units. The State of Minnesota general fund appropriations to the Senate for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2005 and 2004 have been recorded as revenues. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related liability is incurred. Exceptions to this general rule include accumulated unpaid vacation, sick pay and other employee benefits, which are recorded as expenditures when they are paid.

The unspent portion of the appropriation is carried forward indefinitely and, in accordance with specific approval procedures, is available currently for unbudgeted, major expenditures. The cumulative amount of the unspent portion of appropriations is included in the balance sheet. Unspent appropriations not carried forward and unencumbered at the end of a biennium shall be returned to the fund from which appropriated (see Note 4). The Senate's expenditures are classified according to the State administrative guidelines. Senate funds are disbursed by the State's Department of Finance.

#### ***C. Measurement Focus***

The measurement focus of all governmental funds is the flow of current financial resources concept. Under this concept, sources and uses of financial resources, including capital outlays, debt proceeds, and debt retirements are reflected in operations. Resources not available to finance expenditures and commitments of the current period are recognized as deferred revenue or a reservation of fund equity. Liabilities for claims, judgments, compensated absences, and pension contributions which will not be currently liquidated using expendable available financial resources are not recorded as expenditures or current liabilities. The related expenditures are recognized when the liabilities are liquidated.

# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2005 and 2004

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### NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont.)

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#### ***D. Budgetary Accounting***

The Senate adopts a budget for each year of the State's fiscal biennium that reflects the total amount that can be expended by the Senate. Budgets for each year in a biennium are prepared by the Senate's administrative staff. The budget is first reviewed and approved by the Rules and Administration Senate Budget Subcommittee. Based on the Subcommittee's recommendation, the Rules and Administration Committee adopts an operating budget for the Senate. The budget is then referred to the Senate Finance Committee. The budget must be approved by the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate and the State House of Representatives, and signed by the Governor. The approved budget is submitted to the State's Department of Finance and an appropriation for the budgeted amount is awarded for each year in the biennium.

Expenditures cannot legally exceed the total initially appropriated unless supplemental appropriations are approved by the State Commissioner of Finance or unspent appropriations carried forward from previous years are available.

The budget is prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Budgetary control is at the appropriation level. Unexpended appropriations from the first year (year ended June 30, 2004) of the biennium are carried over and are available for operations in the second year (year ended June 30, 2005) of the biennium.

#### ***E. Compensated Absences***

Permanent employees accrue vacation and sick leave according to State administrative guidelines. Senators and temporary employees do not accrue vacation or sick leave. Upon severance, permanent employees are compensated for all of their earned but unused vacation up to a maximum of 275 hours and a percentage of their accumulated sick leave depending upon length of State service and the nature of their severance (voluntary or involuntary).

#### ***F. Capital Assets***

Capital asset acquisitions, consisting of furniture and equipment, are recorded as expenditures, consistent with the procedures for governmental fund-type accounting. These capital assets are property of the State of Minnesota and are reported in the State's basic financial statements.

#### ***G. Accounting Estimates***

In preparing financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of status of appropriations at the date of the financial statements, the reported amounts of appropriations and other receipts and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2005 and 2004

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### NOTE 2 – RETIREMENT PLANS

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Except as described below, Senators are covered by the Legislative Retirement Plan, a defined benefit plan established and administered in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Chapter 3A, which is administered by the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS). Senators contribute nine percent of their salaries to the plan. These contributions are deposited into the State's General Fund. Upon retirement of a senator, funds equal to the present value of future benefits to be paid to that senator are transferred from the General Fund to the Minnesota Post Retirement Investment Fund. The Senate makes no direct contribution to the plan and is not responsible for any unfunded liability of the plan. In fiscal year 2000, this Plan was amended to serve only existing members. No new participants are allowed. New Senators are covered by the Unclassified Retirement Plan described below.

All permanent employees and members of the Senate are covered by the Unclassified Retirement Plan, a defined contribution plan, established by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 352D, which is also administered by MSRS. Employees contributed 4% of their salaries and the Senate contributed 6% of salaries each year to the plan. The employees' and Senate's contributions were \$451,938 and \$679,574, respectively, in 2005; \$431,444 and \$645,097, respectively, in 2004; \$501,275 and \$751,912, respectively, in 2003; and \$492,974 and \$739,461, respectively, in 2002. The Senate made all required contributions.

The permanent employees and members of the Senate are eligible to participate in the Senate's deferred compensation plan as permitted by Minnesota statutes. Eligible employees may elect to have a percentage of their pay contributed to the plan. Contributions are invested in MSRS or qualifying annuity contracts selected by plan participants. Eligible employees can elect to contribute up to 40 hours of vacation pay to the plan or have the Senate match the first \$300 contributed to the plan each calendar year. Employee contributions for 2005 and 2004 were \$838,645 and \$757,343, respectively. The vacation pay and Senate matching contributions totaled \$37,406 and \$54,330, respectively, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005 and \$31,512 and \$47,921, respectively, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004. The Senate made all required matching contributions.

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### NOTE 3 – COMPENSATED ABSENCES

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The Senate's liability for unpaid vacation and sick leave is reported in the State's basic financial statements. The Senate recognizes expenses for compensated absences as they are paid.

The accrued liabilities at June 30, 2005 and 2004 for vacation and sick leave, which would be payable as severance pay, are as follows:

	2005	2004
Vacation	\$ 920,678	\$ 870,349
Sick Leave	893,427	893,443
	<u>\$ 1,814,105</u>	<u>\$ 1,763,792</u>

**MINNESOTA STATE SENATE**

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
JUNE 30, 2005 and 2004

**NOTE 4 – RECONCILIATION OF SENATE STATEMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF  
FINANCE BUDGETARY REPORTS**

The accompanying financial statements are prepared on a different basis of accounting than the budgetary reports of the State's Department of Finance. The Senate statements are presented on the modified accrual basis and the Department of Finance reports are presented on a cash basis, except that at year end encumbered amounts are included in expenditures. As a result, differences exist between expenditures reported in the Senate financial statements and expenditures reported by the Department of Finance. The following is a reconciliation of expenditures reported in the Senate statements to the expenditures included in the budgetary reports:

	Department of Finance Reports	Accrual Basis Adjustments	Senate Financial Statements
Appropriation carryforward to fiscal year 2004 – Reserved	\$ 4,655,678	\$ (516,217)	\$ 4,139,461
Appropriation	19,319,000	-	19,319,000
Other receipts	115,478	-	115,478
Expenditures	(18,039,390)	203,745	(17,835,645)
Appropriation carryforward			
Reserved	4,058,896	(330,489)	3,728,407
Unreserved	1,991,870	18,017	2,009,887
Appropriation carryforward to fiscal year 2005	6,050,766	(312,472)	5,738,294
Appropriation	19,319,000	-	19,319,000
Other receipts	100,137	-	100,137
Expenditures	(20,324,695)	(235,883)	(20,560,578)
Appropriation carryforward to fiscal year 2006	\$ 5,145,208	\$ (548,355)	\$ 4,596,853

# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2005 and 2004

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### NOTE 4 – RECONCILIATION OF SENATE STATEMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BUDGETARY REPORTS (cont.)

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Under Minnesota State Law 16A.281, an appropriation, if not spent during the first year, may be spent during the second year of a biennium. The unreserved appropriation carryforward at June 30, 2004 represents the remainder of the 2004 appropriation. An unexpended appropriation balance not carried forward and remaining unexpended and unencumbered at the end of the biennium shall be returned to the fund from which appropriated. Balances carried forward into the next biennium are to be credited to special accounts to be used for non-recurring expenditures on investments that enhance efficiency or improve effectiveness; to pay expenses associated with special session, interim activities, public hearings, or public outreach efforts and related activities; and to pay severance costs of involuntary terminations. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, this law was amended to allow for payment of expenses associated with session. The unexpended and unencumbered fund balances credited to the special accounts at June 30, 2005 and 2004 are as follows:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Investment expenditures	\$ 2,900,798	\$ 2,044,287
Session, interim activity, public hearings and public outreach costs	211,807	-
Special session, interim activity, public hearings and public outreach costs	-	200,000
Severance costs	<u>1,484,248</u>	<u>1,484,120</u>
	<u>\$ 4,596,853</u>	<u>\$ 3,728,407</u>

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### NOTE 5 – RISK MANAGEMENT

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The Minnesota State Senate is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions, injuries to employees and natural disasters. The Minnesota State Senate is self insured through the State of Minnesota for all types of losses. An administrative fee is paid annually for workers' compensation, but no other premiums are paid.

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)**

## MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

### COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, and 2001 (UNAUDITED)

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
<b>Salaries and Benefits:</b>					
Salaries - senators	\$ 2,115,763	\$ 2,117,599	\$ 2,125,120	\$ 2,118,707	\$ 2,122,106
Salaries - staff	11,132,948	9,812,446	11,097,550	11,077,600	11,185,229
MSRS and FICA, and other benefits	1,668,302	1,474,649	1,666,798	1,620,118	1,576,281
Insurance - staff	1,612,445	1,378,475	1,564,598	1,335,048	1,220,427
Insurance - senators	631,249	578,721	578,171	449,460	450,861
Unemployment compensation	21,354	28,641	62,907	22,164	24,848
Workers' compensation	16,537	14,122	13,440	20,665	30,451
<b>Total Salaries and Benefits</b>	<b>17,198,598</b>	<b>15,404,653</b>	<b>17,108,584</b>	<b>16,643,762</b>	<b>16,610,203</b>
<b>Services:</b>					
Rents, leases and maintenance (includes copy equipment)	194,662	234,954	149,336	217,474	176,545
Employment and publicity advertisement	4,010	-	-	25,281	40,626
Furniture and maintenance repairs	30,832	22,331	48,316	27,590	62,147
Maintenance agreements	171,234	189,878	198,783	152,235	215,112
Printing	45,736	26,625	51,327	148,056	307,435
Micrographics	2,191	23	3,690	268	2,431
Consultant	45,800	18,563	30,763	43,818	59,431
EDP-ISB	17,611	9,936	17,094	20,284	20,469
EDP-software	39,685	47,064	208,770	57,430	41,021
EDP-development (includes equipment)	392,765	199,438	680,326	478,442	170,923
Dry cleaning/carpet cleaning	343	310	358	784	662
Interns	42,410	43,226	45,100	34,315	32,869
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>987,279</b>	<b>792,348</b>	<b>1,433,863</b>	<b>1,205,977</b>	<b>1,129,671</b>
<b>Subsistence:</b>					
Postage	96,279	97,244	92,940	116,250	171,697
Communication	303,833	203,437	311,726	326,529	321,132
Delivery service	1,613	8,067	752	947	1,168
Mailing service	-	-	562	9,794	11,189
Mileage	168,146	164,455	127,841	159,782	120,685
In-state travel/lodging	288,986	294,546	267,982	281,605	249,849
Per diem	680,592	518,214	642,772	562,464	677,913
Registration	20,864	17,728	7,925	43,637	85,546
State vehicle	-	-	512	972	920
Out-state travel	9,511	15,267	5,268	104,248	137,691
Tuitions/memberships/admissions/fees	10,895	21,814	191,015	30,386	106,883
<b>Total Subsistence</b>	<b>1,580,719</b>	<b>1,340,772</b>	<b>1,649,295</b>	<b>1,636,614</b>	<b>1,884,673</b>

**MINNESOTA STATE SENATE**

COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES  
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, and 2001  
(UNAUDITED)

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Furniture, Supplies, Equipment and Capital Outlay:					
Video	\$ 41,623	\$ 22,171	\$ 194,928	\$ 342,290	\$ 81,687
Photographic	8,999	9,220	4,084	25,841	37,420
Furniture and equipment	110,331	14,737	18,747	34,826	68,604
Capital outlay	444,041	96,059	4,707	45,012	29,888
Office supplies/stationery	119,412	96,529	111,812	141,894	175,196
Newspaper and publications	26,652	17,372	32,398	48,500	57,772
Water and coolers	17,504	16,112	18,207	18,606	20,617
Cleaning supplies	160	-	-	169	98
Miscellaneous	25,260	25,672	59,921	32,221	49,539
	<u>793,982</u>	<u>297,872</u>	<u>444,804</u>	<u>689,359</u>	<u>520,821</u>
Total Furniture, Supplies, Equipment and Capital Outlay					
	<u>793,982</u>	<u>297,872</u>	<u>444,804</u>	<u>689,359</u>	<u>520,821</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 20,560,578</u>	<u>\$ 17,835,645</u>	<u>\$ 20,636,546</u>	<u>\$ 20,175,712</u>	<u>\$ 20,145,368</u>





INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL  
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND  
OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Minnesota State Senate  
State of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota

We have audited the financial statements of the Minnesota State Senate, State of Minnesota as of and for the year ended June 30, 2005 and 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated January 20, 2006. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

***Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

In planning and performing our audits, we considered the Minnesota State Senate's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

***Compliance and Other Matters***

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Minnesota State Senate's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We noted certain matters that we reported to the management of the Minnesota State Senate, State of Minnesota, in a separate letter dated January 20, 2006.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Minnesota State Senate, management, and the State of Minnesota and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Richard Keanee & Company, LLP*

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
January 20, 2006