



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Room 463, State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Paul Gazelka
Senate Majority Leader
Room 3113, Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Daudt and Majority Leader Gazelka:

Two weeks remain until your Constitutional deadline to adjourn. We have yet to resolve or in some cases seriously discuss the most critical issues facing our state:

- **Emergency School Aid** to ensure our schools have enough teachers to prevent further class size increase next year;
- Funding to **address our state's opioid crisis** and hold pharmaceutical companies accountable;
- Reforms to **protect our elderly and vulnerable adults** from abuse and neglect;
- Resources for school districts to improve the **safety of our schoolchildren**;
- **Stabilization of the pensions** of over 511,000 Minnesota workers and retirees;
- **Reform in our state's sexual harassment laws** and investments in our ability to protect state employees;
- **A Bonding Bill** that invests adequately in our state's infrastructure; and
- **A Tax Bill** that protects Minnesota families from tax increases.

In the remaining days, I urge you and your Members to work with my Administration and me to negotiate language on bills in which compromises and agreements are within reach. It will take serious discussions to get them in the shape where I could sign, so our energies should be focused there. Given the record of this session and the last, I am very skeptical of your desire to resolve those differences, so I challenge all of us to come to the table ready to work hard and to compromise.

As reminders, I have attached 125 letters from my Commissioners and myself, which outline our concerns with your current drafts, and detail what I need to see in order to sign those bills into law. I urge you to review them because they provide roadmaps to a productive conclusion to this Session.

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- **I will not sign bills that jeopardize the future financial stability of the State of Minnesota.** The House Budget and Tax bills alone would create a \$2.5 billion funding deficit in the State's budget by the end of the fiscal year 2023. The Senate Tax Bill includes conditional tax rate cuts that would be triggered by budget estimates in November Forecasts and pre-empt all other needs. They are non-starters.
- **I will not sign bills that cut agency budgets or that are laden with controversial policy provisions.** In their current forms, all of those "omnibus bills" are destined for vetoes, of which you are well aware.
- **I will not sign bills that raid existing fund balances.** Healthy surpluses should be seen as signs of wise policy-making and sound fiscal management, not as tempting targets to drain for other unfunded purposes.

We still have the opportunity to give our citizens the collaborative and productive ending to this Legislative Session that they deserve. Minnesotans expect us to work together, resolve our differences, and do what is best for our state. We have 14 days to show them that we are capable of providing this leadership. My commissioners, staff, and I are available at all times to work with you and achieve this essential outcome.

Sincerely,



Mark Dayton
Governor

Attachments

cc: The Honorable Tom Bakk, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Melissa Hortman, House Minority Leader