



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

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

February 9, 2010

Senator Keith Langseth
122 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Representative Alice Hausman
453 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Langseth and Representative Hausman:

I write today to express my concern regarding the omnibus capital investment bills. When I unveiled my recommendations in January, I clearly stated a successful bill should be affordable, responsible, and feature only projects that have statewide impact. Moreover, I noted that a bill that does not meet these criteria risked being vetoed in its entirety rather than just line item vetoes.

Despite these clear warnings, the House and Senate bills are unaffordable, irresponsible, and filled with local projects.

As you well know, Minnesota Management and Budget calculated a debt planning estimate of approximately \$725 million in general obligation bonding capacity for the 2010 bonding bill. Both the House and Senate bills recommend nearly \$1 billion in general obligation debt. In light of the state's structural deficit, this additional fiscal burden is clearly unwise.

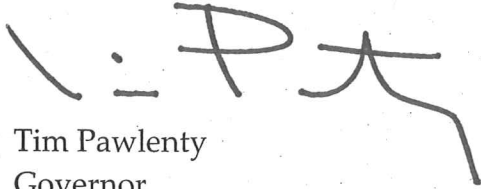
The bills also ignore critical needs. For example, the "Phase II" expansion of the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) facility in Moose Lake and the pre-design and design work for an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to serve the Homeland Security and Emergency Management office are not included in these bills.

The bills are also filled with local projects that fail to fulfill core statewide functions. Examples include:

- Chatfield Arts and Community Center;
- Arrowhead Amateur Sports Complex;
- Various civic centers;
- Theodore Wirth Winter Recreation Area.

Again, the state's current fiscal situation does not permit funding local amenities that have no clear state-wide benefit and little connection to core governmental functions. I strongly encourage you to begin negotiating with my staff and me to craft a bill that is truly affordable, responsible, and focused on meeting core governmental functions.

Sincerely,



Tim Pawlenty
Governor

cc: Members of the Minnesota State House of Representatives
Members of the Minnesota State Senate