



TARA MACK

State Representative

321 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

651-296-5506
rep.tara.mack@house.mn

Legislative Update

February 11, 2010

Hello from St. Paul,

The 2010 legislative kicked off on Thursday, February 4. It continues to be my honor to serve as your representative. This session I will serve on the following committees: Bioscience and Workforce Development Policy and Oversight; Cultural and Outdoor Resources Finance; Early Childhood Finance and Policy; Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight; and Labor and Consumer Protection.

Last Thursday, House leadership unveiled a billion dollar bonding plan. The Speaker of the House listed it as her top priority and hopes to pass a bill by February 15. The Senate proposal is also in the billion dollar range. Both of these surpass Gov. Pawlenty's original \$685 million plan which focuses more on essentials like transportation infrastructure, higher education and public safety while leaving out other, less vital, programs.



There are aspects of the bonding bill that will benefit our state, but I firmly believe tackling our budget troubles should remain the top priority. We are facing a \$1.2 billion deficit for this year and have a projected \$5.4 billion deficit lurking on the horizon for the upcoming biennium. This problem needs to be addressed before we even think about borrowing another billion dollars.

We will have to make difficult decisions to reduce spending and make the government more efficient. Minnesotans are cutting back during this economic downturn, and the state needs to as well.

Finally, I want to thank those of you who were able to attend my office hours Wednesday night at Galaxie Library in Apple Valley. It was great to see so many of you and discuss the issues facing our state and community. Opportunities like this help me better represent you in St. Paul.

As always, I want to hear your thoughts and feedback. Be on the lookout for my session survey. It will be in the mail soon. Please contact me when you have questions or concerns throughout the year. Call me anytime at 651-296-5506 or email me at rep.tara.mack@house.mn.

Sincerely,
Tara Mack

REPRESENTING APPLE VALLEY
AND BURNSVILLE