



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 19, 2010

Hello from St. Paul!

The Bonding Bill

One of the most significant pieces of legislation on the agenda this week, not surprisingly, was the bonding bill. The conference committee had a closed door meeting into the early morning hours on Monday crafting the bill to their liking. The bill returned to the floor Monday night for a vote.

Before the vote took place Governor Pawlenty sent a letter to the bill's authors pledging to veto the bill once it reached his desk. The bill is far too large and has misguided priorities, but despite this, the bill passed the House on Monday night.



The bill was expected to be approved by the Senate immediately and then sent to Gov. Pawlenty where it would be vetoed. Now it looks like legislative leadership will hold the bill and enter into negotiations with the Governor.

The people of Minnesota expect us to spend their tax dollars frugally and wisely, this bill does neither, which is why I voted against this bill. It is my hope we can return to the table and come up with a bill everyone can agree on as we balance the budget.

The Budget

As you know by now, we face a \$1.2 billion budget deficit this year. Last week Gov. Pawlenty announced his plan to balance the budget. Obviously, there have to be cuts in most areas, but he protects the core priorities of public safety, veterans and K-12 education from any cuts. There would also be no tax increases on Minnesota families or small businesses. The current plan also reduces the long-term deficit by more than half.

As the legislature moves forward in the budget process, it is important to remember that Minnesotans everywhere are cutting back to live within their means, and the government must do the same. Next week we will receive an updated budget outlook. The deficit is supposed to be less than expected, but the fact remains that balancing the budget must remain our top priority.

REPRESENTING APPLE VALLEY
AND BURNSVILLE

Representative Tara Mack • District 37A

Additionally, please check out my latest video update via my YouTube page: <http://www.youtube.com/taramack37a>. This week I discuss unnecessary mandates placed on our education system and a new approach the state is taking to alleviate them. Let me know what you think!

Please continue to call and e-mail with your thoughts on the issues we face. You can also connect to me on Facebook.

Sincerely,

Tara Mack

For more information please visit my Web site:

www.house.mn/37A