



# TARA MACK

## State Representative

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### Legislative Update

March 5, 2010

Friends,

I just wanted to send you a quick update on issues the legislature worked on this past week:

**The Haitian Relief Bill:** <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=187&year=2010&type=0>

Minnesotans are known for their kindness and generosity. Being Minnesota nice is not just a term but a lifestyle. Even with the economic struggles we are facing, after the tragic earthquake struck Haiti in January, the people of our state donated millions of dollars to help with the relief efforts.

On Monday, the House passed a bill to encourage the Haitian relief efforts and reduce the financial strain on Minnesotans who donate. I was a co-author of the bill in the House. It allows 2010 Haitian relief contributions to be deducted from 2009 tax returns. Not surprisingly, in light of Minnesota's charitable nature, the bill passed with unanimous support.



**The Budget:** <http://www.doer.state.mn.us/fu-2009-nov>

On Tuesday, Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) released a revised budget outlook. The current deficit is still high at \$994 million, but it is down from the previous \$1.2 billion projection. Unfortunately, the deficit projection for next biennium has bloated to \$5.8 billion, a \$400 million increase. Every day we delay, the state moves further into debt. The legislature must address this deficit now.

We also must bring spending down to sustainable levels. MMB projects spending to grow by 24 percent next biennium, but revenue is only expected to grow by 10 percent. We can't keep spending more than we take in. It is not a partisan issue; it is just math. House leadership will argue we need to raise taxes to increase revenue, but raising taxes when Minnesotans are struggling, looking for work or making less money, is not an option.

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

REPRESENTING APPLE VALLEY  
AND BURNSVILLE