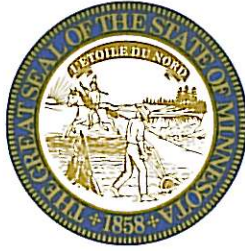


Ryan Winkler
State Representative

District 44B
Hennepin County



Minnesota House of Representatives

January 5, 2010

Dear Representative Dean:

On Tuesday, January 4, you offered a resolution to adopt Temporary Rules of the House. Representative Thissen offered an amendment to your resolution that would have made the state's \$6.2 billion budget deficit the House's top priority this session. In response, you moved to re-refer the amendment to the Rules Committee.

Considering the severity of Minnesota's economic and fiscal crises, I was disappointed that as Majority Leader you did not encourage all members to vote for Representative Thissen's amendment. As Speaker Zellers himself has stated, job creation and the budget deficit must be the legislature's highest priorities.

Now I am asking you, as chair of the Rules Committee, to hold a hearing on this measure as soon as possible. I also request that you include this provision in the Permanent Rules that you will soon propose.

With 209,000 Minnesotans out of work and the state in fiscal crisis, we should not spend our time debating divisive social issues and constitutional amendments. Putting social measures on the ballot will do nothing to get Minnesotans back to work, deliver the highest-quality education for our students, or improve Minnesota's quality-of-life. In fact, the partisan nature of these issues would do little more than inject divisive politics into the legislative process at a time when we should be doing the work Minnesota voters sent us here to accomplish.

Please inform me at your earliest convenience if you intend to hold a hearing on the Rules amendment offered by Representative Thissen, and if so, when. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Ryan Winkler", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan Winkler
State Representative

