

## **State Representative Peggy Scott**

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For Immediate Release

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### **HOUSE BRIEFS Time for Common Sense Budget Solutions**

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Dear Neighbor,

Today we learned that our state is facing a deficit of \$1.2 billion, representing yet another in a cycle of irresponsible spending and budget shortfalls. Minnesotans deserve better. As we are all looking forward to economic recovery and renewed prosperity, it is time for our state government to set priorities and get spending under control.

Just like the hardworking families and businesses across this state, Minnesota government must learn to live within its means. The Governor's proposed constitutional amendment to cap spending at the previous year's revenue levels is an important initiative to prevent future deficit problems, but the work to balance this year's budget remains.

Some say that the answer is to raise taxes and maximize the amount of revenue government takes in. Last session, the DFL passed tax increases of \$1.4 billion on everything from home heating oil to the mortgage interest deduction to electronic downloads. Thankfully, my colleagues and I along with Governor Pawlenty prevented these tax increases from taking effect.

Raising taxes is not a long-term solution. We must instead see this deficit as an opportunity to take a serious look at our government operations and programs, and how best to maximize the use—and not the amount—of taxpayer dollars. We can streamline and modernize government to better serve citizens and give you the value for your tax dollars you deserve.

With the 2010 state legislative session just a couple of months away, the task at hand is clear. The deficit demands that we create common-sense, forward-thinking solutions to create a sustainable balanced budget. For too long the legislature has simply kicked the can to the next generation. As a mom, a taxpayer, and a legislator, this is simply unacceptable.

By acting now to set clear priorities, tackle our most significant budget-busting increases, and improve opportunities for business growth and investment, Minnesota government can right its course and put all of us back on the road of prosperity. The time has come to take hold of our responsibility for solving the needs of today and enabling the dreams of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Peggy

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