



March 31, 2011

Dear Colleague:

As we all know, the primary focus of this legislative session is to resolve the state's budget deficit and add jobs to improve Minnesota's economy. While resolving the stadium issue is of secondary importance, the matter has some urgency this session due to the fact that the Vikings 30 year lease to play in the Metrodome expires at the end of this coming season. In addition, the collapse of the Metrodome roof underscores the problems with an aging facility and the need to develop a long-term facility plan.

While there have been previous attempts to develop a long-term facility plan for the stadium, a plan has not yet been adopted. Therefore, we have continued to gather input on the stadium issue from various stakeholders. Now, the time has come to move forward on a bill that offers a framework for achieving a stadium plan for Minnesota. A bill has been drafted, and we are now in the process of securing bi-partisan co-authors. Next week, the last of the omnibus budget bills will have been processed, and we will be ready to introduce the bill. The goals of the bill will be to:

- Establish a governance structure for requesting proposals from local partners and choosing the best long-term facility option for the state.
- Give potential local partners the options needed to reach an agreement with the Vikings.
- Limit the state's involvement and require a substantial commitment from the Vikings.
- Avoid increases in statewide income or sales taxes and avoid transfers from the general fund.
- Have those who use or benefit from the stadium pay the state's share.
- Provide needed construction jobs, as well as create and retain jobs for the facility and all related economic activity.
- Provide a multi-purpose stadium facility with a roof that will serve the needs of Minnesota and keep the Vikings in Minnesota for many years to come.

Attached is a House Research summary of the key provisions of the bill.

As authors of the bill, we look forward to the opportunity to move this bill through the legislative process, and we welcome your input. It is clearly understood that final consideration of this legislation will not occur until there is a resolution to the state's budget.

Rep. Morrie Lanning

Sen. Julie Rosen

