

Potential End to the Minnesota Government Shutdown

July 14, 2011 by [Christine M. Zimmer](#)

On Day 14 of the state government shutdown, Governor Dayton issued a letter to GOP Majority Leader Amy Koch (R-Buffalo) and Speaker Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove). In the letter, the Governor accepts the past GOP offer of June 30, 2011 with three conditions. Dayton will require all policy issues removed from negotiations and legislative action this year. Secondly, the proposed 15 percent across-the-board reduction of employees in all agencies be dropped, and lastly a \$500 million bonding bill must be passed in the special session.

The Governor drops his proposal to increase income taxes on the top 2 percent of income earners. He indicates he and his Commissioners are ready to work around the clock and when his Commissioners have signed off on all the bills necessary for a comprehensive agreement, Dayton will call for a special session. He expects to be ready to set a date for the special session within three days.

Details for the offer to the Governor by the Minnesota Legislature on June 30, 2011 at 3pm:

- Shift school aid payments from 70/30 to 60/40 (\$700m);
- Issue tobacco bonds to cover remaining gap as agreed to by Governor, Speaker and Senate Majority Leader (TBD);
- Increase per student formula by \$50/year to cover additional borrowing cost (\$128 m);
- Add \$10 million more to University of Minnesota to equalize reductions with MnSCU (\$60m for higher education);
- Restore funding to Department of Human Rights and Trade Office; and
- The offer also includes a "lights on bill."

The Governor and GOP leaders are meeting at 2 pm today. Look for more information after the meeting concludes.