



October 9, 2023

The Honorable Tim Walz
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Erin Campbell
Commissioner, Minnesota Management and Budget
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

via electronic delivery

Dear Governor Walz and Commissioner Campbell,

We are requesting that you halt the proposed remodel and unnecessary expansion of the State Office Building. We urge that you utilize your authority to cease the issuance of bonds for this project, as well as reserve final judgement for any construction contracts. Minnesotans deserve a more robust and public conversation about how their hard-earned money will be spent before proceeding with this proposed construction.

We believe that alternatives to the spending of \$500 million on this project have not been adequately explored. Given the current cost of living crisis that is facing Minnesota families, and the pressing needs for funding critical services statewide, we should be focused on meeting the needs of all Minnesotans, not building a high-end office building.

Considering the expense and cost overruns that have plagued projects in the metro, including Southwest Light Rail and Governor's mansion renovation, it is important that every effort be made to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, the increasing role of remote work in state agencies and in the private sector provides additional alternatives for replacing or complementing the workspace of the State Office Building, which is only fully occupied five months each year. We should have greater public discussion on possible alternatives that the legislature has not had the opportunity to fully investigate. House Leadership failed to consider more cost-effective options including the relocation of staff to existing structures, or the total replacement of the State Office Building.

We ask you not to move forward with the sale of the bonds for the \$500 million renovation of the State Office Building at this time. We should do everything possible to find a more reasonable option and uphold the trust which the people of Minnesota have placed in their government.

Sincerely,

Representative Kristin Robbins

Minority Leader Lisa Demuth

Representative Pam Altendorf

Representative Jeff Backer

Representative Dave Baker

Representative Brian Daniels

Representative Jeff Dotseth

Representative Mary Franson

Representative Dawn Gillman

Representative Josh Heintzeman

Representative Spencer Igo

Representative Jim Joy

Representative Jon Koznick

Representative Patti Anderson

Representative Ben Bakeberg

Representative John Burkel

Representative Ben Davis

Representative Elliott Engen

Representative Marj Fogelman

Representative Matt Grossell

Representative Walter Hudson

Representative Steven Jacob

Representative Krista Knudsen

Representative Shane Mekeland



Representative Joe McDonald



Representative Thomas Murphy



Representative Anne Neu Brindley



Representative Paul Novotny



Representative Bjorn Olson



Representative John Petersburg



Representative Isaac Schultz



Representative Roger J. Skraba



Representative Paul Torkelson



Representative Nolan West



Representative Patricia Mueller



Representative Nathan Nelson



Representative Harry Niska



Representative Tim O'Driscoll



Representative Bernie Perryman



Representative Duane Quam



Representative Peggy Scott



Representative Chris Swedzinski



Representative Mike Wiener



Representative Natalie Zeleznikar