

# Compromise needed in last days of session

I hope the spring has been treating you well. We have less than two weeks left in the 2016 legislative session and I wanted to update you on things:

Constitutionally, we must adjourn by midnight on Monday, May 23. The House has passed all of our major supplemental finance bills and they're now in conference committee with the Senate. We have yet to see a House bonding bill that invests in capital improvements and creates jobs, which is usually the primary task for us in the second, even numbered years of the biennium.

The differences between the House Majority Party and our DFL Governor



Legislator  
Lingo

Peter Fischer

and Senate couldn't be greater. We have a \$900 million budget surplus, and one side wants to spend all of that on tax cuts for wealthy special interests, while I believe it should be invested in making the economy work for ordinary Minnesotans. That means investing in education, continuing the tuition freeze, fixing our transportation system and addressing racial disparities. We also need to pass a robust bonding bill that will create

jobs and strengthen communities across the entire state.

We're now at the point in the session where the House and Senate leadership are meeting with the Governor to attempt to bridge the divide. They're attempting to find a joint budget target for the House and Senate budget committee to work from. As an example of a budget area they need to find agreement on, the House isn't investing an additional dime in education, from early learners through college students, but the Governor and Senate are investing \$100 million or more. I'm hopeful we see the House move in their direction. They will need to find agreement

in all budget areas before work on compromise legislation can start.

While we don't need to pass any bills this year to keep our government running, schools open, and highways plowed, it would be an awful waste of an opportunity if there wasn't any compromise and we saw negotiations fall apart as they did last year over the House tax and transportation bills.

It's a great honor to serve as your voice at the Capitol. I'm hopeful in the final days of the session we'll be able to do some good things for the people of Minnesota.

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