

Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House

District 36B
Anoka
Hennepin



Minnesota House of Representatives

April 8, 2019

Dear Majority Leader Gazelka:

Six weeks remain in this year's legislative session. I appreciate the cordial relationship we have developed and our commitment to doing things differently than they have been done in the past. The deadlines we agreed to are demanding, and our colleagues have been working very hard to meet them. In my view, in order to complete the legislative session in a timely and orderly manner, it is time for you and me to begin publicly discussing the differences between the House and Senate approaches to revenues and expenditures in the major accounts for the state of Minnesota.

I invite you to join me either Tuesday, April 16th, Wednesday, April 17th, or Monday, April 22nd for a public discussion of the comparative targets reached by the House and Senate. I suggest that we have nonpartisan fiscal staff present information comparing the House, Senate, and Governor positions on general fund, highway user trust fund, and health care access fund revenues and expenditures over the next two biennia.

The major finance bills for the House and Senate will be passed out of the major finance committees and divisions by that time, and nonpartisan fiscal staff will have an opportunity to compare the two approaches.

Given that the Legislature will be in recess on the dates I suggest, I recommend we confine our discussion to understanding the approaches each legislative body has taken to the biennial budget. This is a good time for us to make certain we each understand the House and Senate's initial positions.

I suggest we continue this discussion on May 2nd in the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy, after all of the budget bills have cleared the House and Senate floors and the conference committees have begun to meet. That committee brings together the chairs of the finance divisions with the largest budget targets and the leadership of the House and Senate.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Hortman".

Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House

cc: Governor Tim Walz
Minority Leader Tom Bakk
Minority Leader Kurt Daudt

