



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CASEY CAGLE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 15, 2009

Dear Senators,

There is no secret Georgia is currently going through some of the most difficult economic times in its history. Families, businesses, local and state governments have all felt the impact of this recession and unfortunately the relief we are all looking for continues to elude us. This past June state revenues came in 15.7% less than in June of 2008 and total state revenues were down 10.5% for Fiscal Year 2009. As we begin FY 2010, the economic forecast does not look any better in the coming months and the latest revenue collections clearly illustrate that more tough decisions and budget cuts lay ahead in our future.

As all of you are aware Georgia is constitutionally mandated to keep a balanced budget. I am grateful that along with the House, the Senate was committed to follow a fiscally responsible path to balance a \$2 billion budget shortfall for FY 2009 while protecting vital government services such as education and health care, and maintaining the state's Triple-A bond rating while not raising a single tax.

Revenues continue to decline as we enter FY2010 and it is obvious further cuts will need to be made to the FY2010 budget. I assure you that I will keep you all fully aware as we go forward with the decisions on how to make these unfortunate but necessary budget cuts.

I have been working closely with House Speaker Glenn Richardson on further actions to take as it relates to controlling spending specifically for the General Assembly. Based on our beliefs and consulting with fellow leaders, we believe that the legislative body should be leading by example. With the fact that state employees across the board have to take unpaid furloughs, we believe that General Assembly members should be furloughed in conjunction. Therefore, effective August 1, 2009, Speaker Richardson and I will instruct the state fiscal officer to furlough each Senator, Representative and myself one day per month and to adjust salaries accordingly. This furlough period will continue through the 2009 calendar year and we will review the policy and its need to continue at the beginning of the 2010 Legislative Session.

We all have pledged to our constituents to make decisions that reflect the best interests of our state and I feel we should be called upon for the greater good to do all we can for the sake of our hard-working taxpayers. The Speaker and I both understand the potential financial impact this may have on some of you, but we must remember that every spending cut we have made has an impact to the great employees of this state and their families. I truly hope you will join with the Speaker and me and try and do our part to getting our state's economy back on track by enacting these legislative furloughs.

Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions and concerns. I will keep in close contact with all you with any new developments and information as we go through this budget process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Casey Cagle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

Casey Cagle
Lt. Governor of Georgia