

Dear Legislator:

I sincerely hope this e-mail finds you somewhat rested after the long, and yes, sometimes frustrating legislative session that was like no other in recent memory. I look forward to your return to the Capitol so that we can all work together to pass a budget that will best meet the needs of our citizens during these challenging economic times.

Key to moving the budget process forward is your input and observations. I welcome and appreciate both. I have already called the leadership on both sides of the aisle in both chambers this week and have asked them to thoroughly review both of my budgets (Feb. 4 and May 28) and return to me (by June 12) a list of the spending reductions they find absolutely unacceptable. I am hopeful that such a list will narrow our points of contention and ease the path toward successful negotiations.

I wanted to let you know of my overture to leadership and encourage you to contact your respective leaders to share your thoughts.

Please take the time you need to carefully study both of my budget plans. Weigh every line item, every program, every service, every appropriation and decide the spending reductions you can live with and those you cannot. Your input will help serve as the basis of a new starting point in crafting the budget.

We are in unprecedented economic times. The challenges we face are greater than any Legislature and Governor have faced in decades. I appreciate your time and cooperation and I welcome your commitment to the budget process. I look forward to working with you to craft and pass a budget before June 30.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

M. Jodi Rell
Governor