

January 15, 2021

Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan:

We share with you the belief that Minnesotans can rise to meet the challenges of our times: a public health emergency unlike any in our lifetimes, a deep and unequal economic downturn, and a long-overdue reckoning with Minnesota's stark racial disparities.

When we fully recognize what our communities need to thrive, it's clear that the gap between current state revenues and the investments needed is large and growing. **Only with more revenues can the state fully respond to the pandemic and hardship caused by the economic downturn, protect existing community and public services that Minnesotans count on, and build the more equitable recovery Minnesotans deserve.**

This recession may be the most unequal in modern history and is doing the most harm to those with the least resources to get through it, including lower-income Minnesotans and Minnesotans of color. At the same time, many of those with the greatest resources of income and wealth are growing their wealth during this time.

Minnesota is a state of abundance, and we know the path to a stronger, more equitable recovery is through greater investment in the health, well-being, and economic stability of all Minnesotans. **We ask you to include permanent state revenue increases in your FY 2022-23 budget proposal.**

Wise use of the state's budget reserve and maximizing federal dollars are important short-term revenue sources, and permanent state tax increases are essential to Minnesota's ability to build a more equitable state. We call on you to prioritize revenue-raising options that focus on those with the most resources, and that make the tax system more fair, equitable, and just.

We look forward to working with you, as well as educating policymakers and the public on the importance of raising revenues as an essential strategy.

Sincerely,

100% Campaign
AFSCME Council 5
AFSCME Council 65
East Central Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Education Minnesota
IAMAW District Lodge 77
Inter Faculty Organization
IUOE Local 70
ISAIAH
Land Stewardship Project
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota
Main Street Alliance of Minnesota
Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
Minnesota AFL-CIO
Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE)
Minnesota Budget Project
Minnesota Nurses Association
Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO
Northeast Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO
OPEIU Local 12
Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota Action Fund
Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota
SEIU Minnesota State Council
Southeast Minnesota Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO
TakeAction Minnesota
Twin Cities Musicians Union, Local 30-73
UFCW Local 1189
UFCW Local 663
United Steelworkers
West Red River Valley AFL-CIO
Working America