



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

June 17, 2009

The Honorable Peter Courtney
Senate President
S201 State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97310

The Honorable Dave Hunt
Speaker of the House
H269 State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Senate President Courtney and Speaker Hunt:

In this period of economic crisis, this Legislature has succeeded in advancing some important policies that will position Oregon for success when the economy recovers.

To date, we have worked closely and cooperatively towards a balanced budget and to adopt policies critical to the future of Oregon, such as a transportation package for the 21st century, health care for all kids and more adults, the first steps toward health care reform and assistance for families struggling during this trying economic time.

You have been clear to me about your priorities and I have been clear with you about mine. One that should not be a surprise to you is my commitment to preserving a responsible level of our reserves so that we are prepared if state revenues continue to decline throughout the 2009-11 biennium.

I urge you again to see beyond this legislative session and anticipate what our revenue situation will be when you reconvene in 2010. Your current effort to use more of the reserves than I believe is fiscally responsible in order to sine die is not a move I can support. As I have been saying since February, I will veto any such budget.

I understand that you have a job to do. So do I. As Governor of the state my job is to look beyond each legislative session. I cannot and will not support your efforts to deplete the reserves to a level that I believe is irresponsible and potentially detrimental to the economic well-being of the state.

Sincerely,

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor