



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

January 27, 2015

Secretary Mike Huebsch
Department of Administration
101 E. Wilson St, 10th floor
PO Box 7864
Madison, WI 53707-7864

Secretary Huebsch,

It is with great concern for Wisconsin and the end of this fiscal year that we contact to you today. Upon review of information provided by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau on January 23, 2015 to the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance, we now know that the state will end this fiscal year with a deficit nearly double that predicted in November 2014, by the Governor's Department of Administration.

Erroneously calculating arrears of -\$132.1 million, the Department indicated in November that they intended to absorb the fiscal deficit. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau general fund revenue and expenditure projections establish that the budget shortfall is much greater than forecasted, coming in at an alarming -\$283.4 million.

As you are aware, the Governor, the Department of Administration and the Legislature are bound to balance the state budget. Crafting a prospective state budget, without addressing the current shortage, would be irresponsible. Further, we find it difficult to comprehend an additional fiscal plan when the current state of affairs is in such economic crisis. Understanding that there are some adjustments for the recent Potawatomi compact payment, ignoring the remaining deficit will not make it go away.

What plans do the Department and Governor Walker have to address this budgetary emergency, in the remaining months of this fiscal year?

These plans and an immediate response are necessary for an honest discussion with the citizens of this state about the current practices of state budgeting. The deficit resolution actions for the 2013-2015 budget will certainly impact the choices in the 2015-2017 biennium budget process.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

JON ERPENBACH
State Senator
27th District

LENA C. TAYLOR
State Senator
4th District