



WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

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

August 27, 2014

Democratic Senators
State Capitol
Madison, WI

Dear Senate Colleagues,

Yesterday we sent a letter to Secretary Huebsch asking when the final revenue numbers for Fiscal Year 2014 would be released. We sent the letter because last year the final numbers for Fiscal Year 2013 were released on August 23rd.

The delay in releasing the 2014 numbers raises a number of concerns.

The delay is fueling concern that they will show a significant revenue shortfall. We have heard that the shortfall in revenue could be anywhere between \$100 and \$250 million. Such a shortfall could have a major impact on the state's structural deficit. For example, a \$100 million shortfall could lead to a structural deficit of \$1.042 billion while a shortfall of \$250 million could lead to a structural deficit as high as \$1.642 billion. In either case the state legislature will be forced to make very difficult decisions during the next budget process.

How significant that shortfall is could also have a wide ranging impact on the current budget as well. Some have suggested the shortfall may even require immediate action possibly including the need to pass an emergency budget repair bill.

Because it is possible that these numbers won't be released until late afternoon on Friday, the start of Labor Day weekend making it difficult to respond to the press in your district, we wanted to make you aware of the impending release of these numbers and the potential ramifications of what could be a significant shortfall in general fund revenues.

Sincerely,

Chris Larson
State Senator

Dave Hansen
State Senator

Jennifer Shilling
State Senator

Bob Wirth
State Senator