

June 3, 2009

The Honorable Tim Pawlenty
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Pawlenty,

In March of this year, your office launched the Transparency and Accountability Project to “empower citizens to help hold government accountable.” Common Cause Minnesota and Growth and Justice applauded the development of this project as a way to bring greater accountability to the state budget process.

We respectfully urge you to use that same standard of openness and transparency as you move forward with an apparently unprecedented exercise of the gubernatorial unallotment power. The unallotment process is unfamiliar to most Minnesotans and yet they will be affected enormously by the unallotments that your office imposes in coming months. It is crucial that this process be open and transparent so that all stakeholders respect the outcome. To ensure that, we urge you to consider the following steps:

1. Publicly disclose all comments and lobbying efforts directed at the Governor’s office in favor of or opposing unallotments.
2. Implement a reasonable public comment period or even formal hearings, allowing the public to react to the proposed unallotment decisions.

The decisions you make will affect the lives of all Minnesotans in some way, and have a potentially dramatic impact on many. Common Cause Minnesota and Growth & Justice strongly encourage you to continue your commitment to open government during this historic unilateral use of gubernatorial power.

Sincerely,



Mike Dean
Executive Director
Common Cause Minnesota



Dane Smith
President
Growth & Justice