

Dear Neighbors,

Heading into the 2010 legislative session that began Feb. 4, the Legislature faced two major tasks: Creating jobs for the 200,000 unemployed Minnesotans and balancing another state budget deficit while protecting Minnesota's priorities.

I'm happy to report a successful session in those regards. Because of two major jobs bills passed by the Legislature, 30,000 Minnesotans will be returning to work. Our capital improvements bill will get workers off the bench, constructing the infrastructure that makes Minnesota a great place to live. Our tax credits bill will give emerging small businesses capital they need to grow and expand their workforce.

Our budgeting process was made difficult with just two weeks left in the session, when the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that the governor broke the law by unilaterally unalloting over \$2 billion from the state budget. After all-night sessions at the Capitol lawmakers struck a deal to balance a \$3 billion deficit.

The compromise wasn't perfect, but the Legislature fought hard to protect Minnesota's values. That means no cuts to schools, no cuts to nursing homes and no cuts to veterans. We've given Minnesota the chance to leverage \$1.4 billion in federal health care funding that will help our hospitals and save or create 22,000 jobs.

I look forward to continue fighting for Minnesotans and East Side residents. It's been an honor to represent you.

Sincerely,



State Representative **SHELDON JOHNSON**

2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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Sheldon Johnson

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CREATING JOBS

- ♦ Passed capital investment bill that will improve the state's infrastructure and create 20,000 jobs.
- ♦ Created tax credits to help emerging small businesses get the capital they need to expand and add jobs—10,000 of them.

MAKING MINNESOTA A LEADER

- ♦ As chair of the Telecommunication Committee, Sheldon pushed to make Minnesota a leader in broadband internet. He passed a bill that gives the state aggressive goals toward becoming the national leader in internet access.



FIGHTING FOR MINNESOTANS

- ♦ Despite steep budget deficit, Sheldon fought to protect schools, nursing homes and veterans from cuts.
- ♦ Protected health care to the state's most vulnerable population. By securing \$1.4 billion in federal funds, 102,000 Minnesotans will get the health care they need.
- ♦ Minimized cuts to St. Paul and Ramsey County. Sheldon fought the governor's request to cut \$25 million in funding for our police officers, sheriff's deputies and firefighters. Instead, only \$9.4 million was cut.



BUILDING SAFE COMMUNITIES

- ♦ Sheldon authored a bill that will require cell phone companies to give important cell phone records to law enforcement so they can find missing persons. This bill is a response to a tragedy in Kansas, where 18-year-old Kelsey Smith was abducted and murdered. Police fought for four days with their provider to get her cell phone records that would have revealed Kelsey's location.
- ♦ Strengthened domestic abuse laws and passed legislation to allow for DWI ignition interlock devices on repeat offenders.

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