

April 9, 2010

**TO: MAFMIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE AND MANAGERS**

FR: MARCUS MARSH, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MANAGER

RE: WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Legislator's returned after their Easter break on Tuesday.

The budget remains a major topic with Finance and Tax Committees meeting in the House and Senate. There is a lot of discussion on the Federal takeover of health care and there are numerous research people trying to understand what the 2,400 page bill does that Congress passed and was signed by the President. Some Legislators believe there will be an initial windfall of \$300 or \$400 million dollars that will help balance the State Budget. The Legislature passed a bill last week to reduce some of the increase in state spending which has been signed by the Governor. So, if it is true that there is a windfall of dollars from the Federal Government the State Budget would be very close to being balanced.

The huge problem lingering is the next fiscal budget which starts July 1, 2011 and runs to June 30, 2013. The projections are that budget appears to be \$4 to \$6 billion dollars short depending on the economy and the rate of spending.

There is another Bonding Bill working its way through the Legislative process. As you recall the Governor vetoed \$320 million dollars of bonding projects in the \$1 billion dollar bill that was sent to him. There have been meetings with the Governor, Legislators and interested groups to reach an agreement on a few items the Governor vetoed such as RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota) which is land protection program that sportsmen strongly support.

There has been a lot of closed door meeting with the Governor, key Legislators and the Minnesota Vikings owners as to a possible new stadium for the Vikings. It appears there is a serious effort to get a deal done before the session ends.

Floor sessions in both the House and Senate were slow as most of the real legislative activity was behind closed doors.

The hope was the Storm Chaser Bill, H.F. 2060 Representative Phil Sterner (D-Rosemount) was going to be up for a vote in the House this week but it wasn't taken up.

The Department of Commerce Omnibus Bill S.F. 2839 Senator Linda Scheid (D-Brooklyn Park) and the companion bill H.F. 2942 Representative Joe Atkins (D-Inver Grove Heights) is still waiting floor action in both the Senate and House. The bill authors indicated they wanted to bring up the bills this week but that didn't happen.

This is my last reminder for the 2010 Congressional Contact Program. I need to have room reservation to NAMIC by next Friday. The dates are Wednesday, May 19 and Thursday, May 20. We are doing something new this year; we are having a reception for members and staff of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation in the late afternoon and evening on the 19th and then our appointments with members of Congress on the 20th. This should be a great time to be in Washington DC as the temperature should be a little cooler and not as crowded. **Please consider going, there are several issues before Congress that could affect our mutual's.**