

April 29, 2010

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

FR: MARCUS MARSH, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MANAGER

RE: WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Legislature continued on their slow state convention pace again this week. The House and Senate recessed on Wednesday until Monday, May 3rd.

The House Civil Justice Committee Chairman Joe Mullery (D-Minneapolis) had scheduled a hearing for Monday to have an informational hearing on the Storm Chaser Bill H.F. 2060 Representative Phil Sterner (D-Rosemount). Representative Mullery has been holding up a vote on the bill on the House floor until he had his hearing. About an hour before the hearing Representative Mullery cancelled the hearing. So we are pushing for a vote on the bill next week.

The Commerce Department Omnibus Bill H.F. 2942 Joe Atkins (D-Inver Grove Heights) was not brought up for a vote again this week. This bill is being held as a possible vehicle for last minute health care legislation especially related to the state budget.

I have written about the on-going research by the Legislature to try to find possible money as well as understand the National Health Care Bill that was passed by Congress. It appears that because there are such extensive rule making requirements in the Federal Bill that it will take months, if not years, so there will be no easy fix for the remaining \$400 million dollar short fall in the state budget.

In spite of the latter, the Senate is working on a Health Care Bill and the House has just finished their bill in committee and it will be on the House floor next week. The bill is H.F. 2614 with Chief Author Thomas Huntley (D-Duluth). Legislators are taking a best guess in this bill in regards to what the Federal Health Care Legislation will eventually look like. This is risky legislation because it could commit the State of Minnesota to costs and programs that no one knows about. I think the bill will have a hard time passing the House and will likely be vetoed by Governor Pawlenty.

The talk around the Capitol is will the \$400 million dollar short fall in the state budget be dealt with, will there be a Special Legislative Session or will it be left to the Governor to cut through the unalotment process?

The Speaker of the House, Margaret Anderson Kelliher was endorsed for Governor last week at the State Democrat Convention. She will face two challengers in the DFL Primary Election, former U.S. Senator Mark Dayton and former State Representative Matt Entenza

The Republican State Convention will choose their candidate for Governor on Friday between State Representative Marty Seifert and State Representative Tom Emmer.