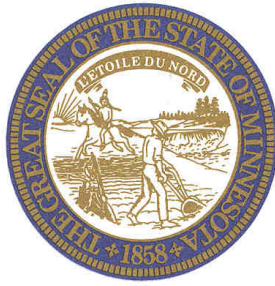


Minnesota Senate



Minnesota House of Representatives

March 7, 2013

Jim Nobles
Office of the Legislative Auditor
140 Centennial Building
658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Nobles:

The Minnesota Orchestra is a world class performing arts organization. It adds immeasurably to the quality of life in Minnesota through its performances at both Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis and in schools and communities across the state.

The State of Minnesota invested significantly in a fact and future of the orchestra as a world class entity. It places Minnesota on the map nationally and internationally and adds to our region and state's economic competitiveness. In recognition of that status, the State of Minnesota invested \$16 million in public monies through bonding dollars to assist in the remodeling of the lobby of Orchestra Hall and provides operating funding through ongoing Legacy dollars. We now find the return on those investments threatened by the lockout of the musicians and the logjam that the orchestra management and musicians' representatives currently find themselves in.

News reports and review of Orchestra President Michael Henson's 2010 legislative testimony raise questions about the Orchestra's financial situation with the public and legislators when requesting and receiving \$14 million in bonding for a new lobby on Orchestra Hall. After the House Legacy hearing of February 18, 2013, there remains concerns about the public's investments in the state's largest arts organization.

The request and subsequent granting of Legacy funding for the 2012-2013 biennium was contingent and assuming that there would be an Orchestral season, since the current season has not begun and is cancelled through the beginning of April, gives us pause and concerns about the state's investment. A portion of the State Arts Board of funding is to provide educational and community concerts throughout Minnesota. We understand that the lockout has denied youth from across Minnesota exposure to the Orchestra, as well as cancellations of a concerts or events in the following communities: Bemidji, Osseo, Chanhassen, Forest Lake, St. Cloud/St. Joseph, and Winona.

It is in the State of Minnesota's interest that this lockout be resolved in the quickest possible manner. Resolution of the lockout, the securing of a new contract between management and performers will allow the Minnesota Orchestra to return to its core mission of performing and educating across the region. A quick resolution will act to assure the preservation of the current corps of Grammy-nominated musicians, and assure a return on the public's investment in this important cultural institution, its capital needs and operating budget.

Therefore, in representation of the state's interests and assurance of the value of and return on its investments we the undersigned members of the Minnesota legislature request that the Legislative Auditor

audit the books of the Minnesota Orchestra Association, including a review of its feasibility study for the remodeling of Orchestra Hall, a review of the use of all public funds, and of testimony of Orchestra principals before legislative committees for and about securing of those funds.

Respectfully,


Rep. Jim Davnie


Rep. Rick Hansen


Rep. Alice Hausman


Rep. Jean Wagenius


Rep. Susan Allen


Rep. Tom Anzels


Rep. Joe Atkins


Rep. John Benson


Rep. Connie Bernardy


Rep. David Bly


Rep. Kathy Bryneart


Rep. Lyndon Carlson


Rep. Karen Clark


Rep. Raymond Dehn


Rep. Zachary Dorholt


Rep. Roger Erickson


Rep. Andrew Falk


Rep. Tim Faust


Rep. Peter Fischer


Rep. Mike Freiberg


Rep. Patti Fritz


Rep. Laurie Halverson


Rep. Debra Hilstrom


Rep. Frank Hornstein


Rep. Melissa Hortman


Rep. Jason Isaacson


Rep. Clark Johnson


Rep. Sheldon Johnson


Rep. Phyllis Kahn


Rep. Tina Liebling


Rep. John Lesch


Rep. Ben Lien


Rep. Diane Loeffler


Rep. Tim Mahoney


Rep. Carlos Mariani


Rep. Sandra Masin


Rep. Jay McNamar


Rep. Carly Melin


Rep. Jason Metsa


Rep. Rena Moran


Rep. Will Morgan


Rep. Joe Mullery


Rep. Mike Nelson


Rep. Jerry Newton



Rep. Erin Murphy



Rep. Mary Murphy



Rep. Kim Norton



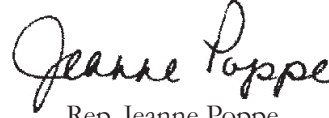
Rep. Michael Paymar



Rep. Gene Pelowski



Rep. John Persell



Rep. Jeanne Poppe



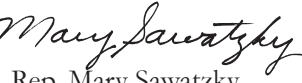
Rep. Joe Radinovich



Rep. Paul Rosenthal



Rep. Shannon Savick



Rep. Mary Sawatzky



Rep. Dan Schoen



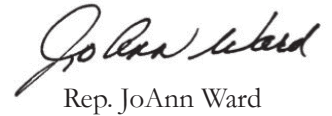
Rep. Yvonne Selcer



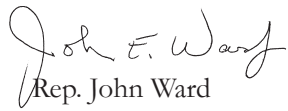
Rep. Erik Simonson



Rep. Mike Sundin



Rep. JoAnn Ward



Rep. John Ward



Rep. Ryan Winkler



Rep. Barb Yarusso



Sen. Dick Cohen



Sen. Jeff Hayden

Sen. Tom Bakk



Sen. D. Scott Dibble

Sen. Chris Eaton



Sen. Kent Eken

Sen. Goodwin


Sen. Founq Hawji

Sen. John Hoffman

Sen. Vicki Jensen

Sen. Alice Johnson

Sen. Susan Kent




Sen. Lyle Koenen



Sen. John Marty

Sen. Tom Saxhaug



Sen. Bev Scalze

Sen. Kathy Sheran

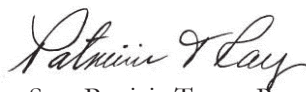
Sen. Katie Sieben

Sen. Rod Skoe

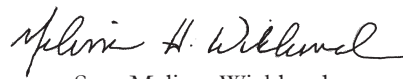
Sen. LeRoy Stumpf



Sen. David Tomassoni



Sen. Patricia Torres Ray



Sen. Melissa Wicklund