Dear Friends & Neighbors:

For the past decade it has been an honor to represent the citizens of Senate District 24. This session, the legislature worked to pass an agenda that creates jobs, improves the economic climate and invests in the state’s priorities, including education, health care, roads and bridges. For our local area, this session was very productive. Some important issues that needed attention include long-term care, pensions and economic development.

Please take a few minutes to review my 2012 Chief Author Bill Accomplishments on the reverse side.

Julie

Accomplishments of the 2011-12 Legislative Session

$7B+ BUDGET TURNAROUND

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<td>$6.2 billion</td>
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- BUDGET: We balanced a $5 billion deficit without raising taxes, and turning it into a $1.2 billion surplus that refilled our reserves in less than 18 months. During this time, unemployment also decreased from 7.1 to 5.7 percent.

- EDUCATION: The Legislature approved a Teacher Basic Skills Testing bill with only one dissenting vote, and it was signed as the first new law of the 2012 session.

- HEALTH CARE: The Long-term care initiative restores $18 million to several HHS programs that faced reductions as part of the 2011 budget negotiations, and restores funding to the Emergency Medical Assistance Program.

- BUSINESS: Angel Investment Tax Credit provides qualified investors in certified small businesses with a refundable income tax credit equal to 25 percent of their investments up to a maximum of $125,000 ($250,000 for married joint filers).

- VOTER ID: On the ballot this November is a proposed constitutional amendment that will require a photo ID to vote. The public deserves to have confidence in the integrity of our election system. Fair and transparent elections are essential to the functioning of our representative republic.
Rosen bills signed into law

RENEWABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND REFORM: The RDF reform law clarifies the purpose and adopts a single competitive grant making process to ensure Xcel ratepayer money is being spent on only the best renewable electric energy resource projects. The bill also provides for transparency, accountability, eliminates the legislature’s ability to appropriate money from the fund, and helps Minnesota be a national leader in advanced renewable energy technology.

LONG TERM CARE:

Critical Access Nursing Facilities – This legislation creates a critical access designation for nursing facilities and directs the Dept. of Human Services to work with the Dept. of Health and stakeholders in establishing the designation process, and grant the designation on a competitive basis. If granted “critical access” designation, the facilities will gain a variety of benefits. This legislation is another first in the nation.

Nursing Facilities Construction Moratorium – The Long Term Care Initiative brought this proposal forward and is seeking funding for nursing facilities exceptions to the moratorium projects. In order to receive a rate increase, nursing facilities must receive approval through the moratorium exception process, which is funded through the Medicaid funding base.

Nursing Facility Certification Changes – This bill allows Medicaid participating facilities to end participation in the Medicaid program and decreases regulation and burdens from the federal level that comes along with the Medicare certification.

SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE: This bipartisan bill modifies the social worker licensure requirements and ensures equal, increased protection and standards for consumers and establishes requirements for alcohol, drug and licensed professional counselors. This bill is a product of the Board of Social Work who met with 17 stakeholders over a span of six years to finally produce legislation with broad support.

COMMUNITY BASED CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY PROGRAM: This legislation develops a model of care to improve the effective and efficient delivery of service for chemically dependent individuals. The plan will identify methods to reduce duplication, promote scientifically supported practices, and provide information to the legislature for statutory and rule changes to make the program as successful as possible.

PROVIDER PEER GROUPING: This bill make changes to provider peer grouping and directs the health department to develop a method for comparing health care providers based on risk-adjustment and cost of quality for a provider’s total patient population, as well as for select specific health conditions. This legislation was a top priority for Minnesota Hospital Association, Minnesota Medical Association and the Minnesota Council of Health Plans.

AGRICULTURAL MICROLOAN PROGRAM: This bill establishes and implements an immigrant and minority farmer’s microloan pilot program to help finance the production of specialty crops and livestock.

REDEVELOPMENT DEMOLITION LOAN PROGRAM: This bill expands the Redevelopment Program to include loans for demolition of blighted structure in rural communities that do not immediately have a redevelopment plan for the site. It would also assist with interior remediation, such as asbestos abatement, and position the site for redevelopment which will grow jobs and the local tax base.

Vikings Stadium

One of the main priorities this session was to approve a stadium bill that is a good investment for Minnesota and ensures the team will stay here for generations to come. After years of hard work and bipartisan cooperation the legislature and Governor approved financing for a world-class facility without raising taxes. The stadium will be build at the current Metrodome site with an opening date scheduled for the fall of 2016. The team agreed to pay an additional $50 million, bringing their total share to $477 million. The state will pay $348 million and the city of Minneapolis will pay $150 million.

Rosen’s Local New Laws

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC SERVICES: This legislation has been the work of 2011 and 2012 bills. Communities around the state will find these specially trained paramedics to be very valuable assets to the medical field. They are utilizing their skills in helping individuals who frequent emergency rooms for various chronic issues to develop a care plan to reduce medical recurrences. This is an exciting opportunity for greater Minnesota, and other states and countries are closely watching this legislation.

FAIRMONT POLICE RELIEF ASSOC: This bill consolidates the Fairmont Police Relief Association into PERA-Police and Fire. With this consolidation, the interest rate is increased from 5% to the rate for PERA at 8.5% and reduces Fairmont’s amortization payments from $1,374,748 annually to $279,305.

WINNEBAGO CRAFT BEER FEST: Small out-of-state brewers are exempted from licensing and fees to participate in a one-day festival held in the city of Winnebago. The event will be held on Saturday, June 23rd beginning at 3:00 p.m. Come out for the festivities – Hope to see you all there!