



memo:

TO: Regional Coordinators, Executive Board Members and Council Leaders

DATE: October 21, 2008

RE: Budget Discussions with the Governor

Earlier today I met with the governor along with leaders from CSEA and OMCE regarding the state's fiscal crisis.

The governor pointed out there are no sacred cows in the budget and that all options are on the table. However, although there are many rumors regarding actions to address the budget deficit, he repeatedly stated state employees have already taken the brunt of the cuts and he did not want to take more from the state workforce.


The governor called the meeting to hear directly from union leaders, our thoughts on ways to address the deficits.

Prior to the meeting I provided his office with detailed proposals to close the budget gap (see attached).

I took the opportunity at this meeting to reiterate these proposals. I emphasized the need to reduce the number of contractors and consultants and I also took the opportunity to point out areas of additional savings already available in our contract, including telecommuting, flexible scheduling and compressed work weeks. The governor agreed that contracting out has to stop and will stop and also agreed that agencies need to be more receptive to options available in our current contract.

The governor also asked for our support in convincing congress of the need for federal assistance in this crisis.

The governor has pledged that there will be follow up meetings with the unions as well as other stakeholders. I will continue to update you as information becomes available.


Kenneth Brynieh

Attachment