

# Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Robert Wm. Lang, Director



State of Wisconsin

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703  
Email: [Fiscal.Bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Fiscal.Bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Telephone: (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

May 22, 2008

Senator Michael Ellis  
Room 7 South, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Ellis:

This is in response to your letter of today regarding my May 21, 2008, memorandum to you on the projected 2009-11 structural deficit of the state's general fund. A copy of the memorandum is attached.

In the May 21 memorandum, I projected the 2009-11 structural deficit under the recently-enacted budget adjustment bill at \$1,682 million. This is \$786 million greater than the structural deficit estimated at the time of enactment of the state's 2007-09 biennial budget.

As stated in my May 21 memorandum, the structural deficit increased from \$896 million to \$1,686 million once the February 13, 2008, revenue estimates for the remainder of the current biennium were determined. This is due to the fact that tax collections and departmental revenues are projected to decline significantly and expenditures are estimated to increase.

The May 21 memorandum explained this situation. It would have been inaccurate to portray the significant increase in the structural deficit as the result of the budget adjustment bill. It was not. The structural deficit was neither improved nor worsened by the budget adjustment bill; nor did the memorandum suggest that it was.

The May 21 memorandum was not intended to assign credit or blame to either branch of government, but rather to factually state why the number increased as significantly as it did.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Lang".

Robert Wm. Lang  
Director

RWL/sas  
Attachment